

Course Booklet

Autumn Semester 2016

19 September – 23 December 2016

Department of English
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Introduction

Dear Students, dear Members of Staff,

I would like to welcome you “back home” to the University and to the English Department, and to welcome the ever larger numbers of new students who have decided to make the Department their new intellectual “diheime,” for the first time making us the second-largest institute in the Faculty of Humanities. I am sure that we are able to offer you again an exciting mixture of academic and non-academic opportunities that will make you feel at home here.

Before coming to these, let me, however, first say good-bye and offer a heartfelt thank you to those who are no longer working in the department: Melanie Calame, Xenia Netos and Sebastian Schwarz among the student assistants, and Florian Berger and Jelena Pajic among the tutors. Our ranks, however, will be massively reinforced by lecturer Adrian Leemann, teaching assistants Ursula Ritzau and Martin Paviour-Smith, doctoral students Claudine Bollinger, Sofie Behluli and Eva Kuske, tutor Sabrina Subasic and, as student assistant, Leona Goop.

I am also proud to inform you about another round of achievements by members of our department: Gabi Rippl has been awarded the prestigious International Morphomata Fellowship, which will allow her to do research at the University of Cologne on her project "Anglophone Life Writing Today: Transcultural Figurations - Intermedial Constellations" from 1 February - 31 July 2017. Although her presence at the department in the SS 2017 will be direly missed, I am also happy to inform you that her fellowship also covers a teaching replacement for her classes in the SS 2017. Annette Kern-Stähler received an SNF grant for her project "United under One Banner? Medievalism and 'National' Remembering in 21st-Century Switzerland and Britain," which includes a PhD position filled by Matthias Berger. Kathrin Scheuchzer was awarded a summa cum laude for her PhD thesis entitled "Remember Little Isaac: Women and Children in John Foxe's *Actes and Monuments*." Finally, Sofie Behluli has become a member of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg Graduate School and has received a 6-month stipend. As for the recent publications of the institute's staff, have a look at the glass box on the institute's floor and see for yourself that we are rather busy on the research front as well!

This holds true also in view of the numerous conferences that the department will be hosting this semester. From 4-5 November, the SANAS (Swiss Association for North American Studies) conference will take place in Bern, organized by Julia Straub, Ryan Kopaitich and Lukas Etter. From 10-12 November we will be home to the conference “Cultural Dimensions of Sustainability,” (organized by Gabi Rippl and Torsten Meireis). On 15 December a conference co-organized by the Walter Benjamin Kolleg, Christiane Göttler, Gabriele Rippl, Peter Schneemann and Michael Stolz will address the topic “Original – Kopie: Techniken und

Ästhetiken der Reproduzierbarkeit." Finally, the renowned scholar Rosi Braidotti will close this year's Distinguished Lecture Series on 24 October (workshop 25 October) with a talk entitled "Critique, Power, Affirmation." As there will be more coming up, make sure to check the department's homepage regularly.

As the name already indicates, the foci of this semester are provided by our Focus Modules: "Communities and Contact," "Violence in Literature," and "Intermediality," all accompanied by a diverse and enticing array of BA seminars. Among our MA seminars, a tendency to "look abroad" and to address the communal as well as violent facets of cultural contact becomes also visible, e.g. in Nadjia Gernalzick's seminar "Adapting Cabeza de Vaca's Shipwrecks," Virginia Richter's seminar "Displacement: Narratives of Migration and Exile," or the MA Seminar on "Utopia," co-taught by Gabi Rippl and Barbara Mahlmann-Bauer. Our colleague Crispin Thurlow enjoys a well-deserved sabbatical this semester.

All of this goes to show that the English Department is a thriving unit with a wide range of interests and areas of interest and competence, which we can only invite you to explore and enjoy. In order to do so, make sure that you stay tuned to our website and inform yourself – needless to say, mostly about KSL, and the procedures and deadlines this implies. Please get in touch either with your study counsellors or Sarah Zürcher if any questions or doubts arise as regards this topic.

With these words in mind, enjoy the autumn semester!

Prof. Thomas Claviez
Head of Department

Important Information

CHANGES TO KSL & REMINDERS

For every course entry in KSL (we use the English term, “CTS”, on the website) there used to be two sign-up steps: registration to the course and registration to the assessment. Now, to make registration easier for you, **you will only register once**. If you register to take a course, you will be assessed. **If you do not want to be assessed, you must deregister from the course before the deadline.**

All registration in KSL is now modular: that means you must register separately for seminar papers and graded exams in courses that are also offered as ungraded courses. To register for a Focus Module, you would register for

- Lecture (3 ECTS Points)
- Seminar (4 ECTS)
- Seminar Paper/Additional Graded Work¹ (3 ECTS).

To register for an MA Seminar you would register for

- Seminar (4 ECTS)
- Seminar Paper/Additional Graded Work (3 ECTS).

The MA Foundation lectures both have an optional graded exam component as well.

The deadlines for course registration and seminar papers/additional graded work are no longer the same. The deadline for course registration and deregistration is **15 October** for the autumn semester, **15 March** for the

¹ “Additional Graded Work” is the denotation for courses that do not require seminar papers for a grade, but require some other form of work. This is most common in Linguistics courses. To know whether a course offers a seminar paper or additional graded work, see its description in the course booklet.

spring semester. The registration dates for seminar papers and additional graded work

are **8 December** for the autumn semester and **15 May** for spring semester. This change is intended to give students more time to decide whether or not to write a seminar paper.

For the BA Colloquium, register for the 1 ECTS COURSE each time you take this course. You must also register for **BA Colloquium: Second Semester Presentation** (1 ECTS) the second time you take this course.

Beginning this semester you must now also register for tutorials on KLS if you would like to receive ECTS credit. Just search for “Tutorials” in KSL and choose either BA or MA. To receive credit, you must attend the tutorial regularly. If you would like to visit a tutorial occasionally, as desired to supplement your course attendance, you are welcome to do so. You do not need to register for that. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Zürcher.

Once you register for a course on KSL, you will automatically be registered for that course on ILIAS.

For general advice on how the signing-up process works on KSL, please watch the video tutorial KSL provides on their website [<http://kslvideos.unibe.ch/?l=de>]

Exceptions to KSL Registration

The following courses and module do not require registration on KSL: BA and MA theses, stay abroad module, independent studies. ALL other courses DO REQUIRE REGISTRATION (including the BA colloquium and the MA forum)!

BA THESIS REGISTRATION CHANGE

For students who will be submitting their theses in **Fall 2016**, students must have completed all other compulsory modules with the

exception of the Bachelor Module. Registration for the BA Thesis becomes binding after the general deadline for registration:

- Registration Deadline: Friday, **September 23**
- Submission Deadline: Friday, **December 23**

Students who will be submitting their theses in **Spring 2017 and after** have a two-step registration process:

1. Students must have their supervisors sign their thesis registration forms by Tuesday, **November 15**
2. Students must have their study counsellors sign their thesis registration forms, showing that all necessary credits have been fulfilled, and turn in the form to the secretariat by **March 1, 2017**.

Registration for the BA Thesis becomes binding after the second deadline. The registration form must be turned in to the secretariat by March 1, 2017.

- Thesis Supervisor Deadline: Tuesday, November 15
- Study Counsellor & Secretariat Deadline: Wednesday, March 1
- Spring 2017 Thesis Submission Deadline: Friday, June 2

The new deadlines for autumn semester will be **April 30** for the initial signature and **September 30** for the second signature and turning in to the secretariat. The submission deadline will be the last day of term.

PH STAY ABROAD

The PH Bern 2015 Study Plan for modern languages requires all students to study abroad for six months. This will apply to students beginning their studies at the PH this semester. For additional information, please visit the PH website: <https://www.phbern.ch>.

ARL: THE READING LIST EXAM

Majors who began their studies in English in autumn 2014 are required to pass the ARL exam. You must register on KSL in the semester in which you want to take the exam with the same registration and deregistration dates as other courses, though ILIAS access is not linked to registration². The exam will be offered in the penultimate week of each semester. For more information see the Studies section of the website.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss a class, you must write to your instructor to apologise for your absence and explain why it was unavoidable. Students who miss more than 2 sessions of a lecture or seminar and more than 1 session of a Forum or Colloquium will FAIL the course in question.

² Some reading materials for the ARL can be found on ILIAS. Contact the ARL Coordinator to join the list.

Who to Ask – Autumn Semester 2016

Study Counselling for BA Students

Students with surnames A-K

Marijke Denger
031 631 33 95 / B 263
marijke.denger@ens.unibe.ch

Students with surnames L-Z

Waylon Weber
031 631 55 15 / D 211
waylon.weber@ens.unibe.ch

Study Counselling for MA Students

Students with surnames A-K

PD Dr. Julia Straub
031 631 83 61 / B 262
julia.straub@ens.unibe.ch

Students with surnames L-Z

Kathrin Scheuchzer
031 631 55 15 / B267
kathrin.scheuchzer@ens.unibe.ch

International and Exchange Coordinator / Practical Module Coordinator

Students with surnames A-K

Joseph Comer
031 631 45 09 / B 272
joseph.comer@ens.unibe.ch

Students with surnames L-Z

Dr. Rory Critten
031 631 55 15 / B 267
rory.critten@ens.unibe.ch

Independent Studies Proposals

Contact any member of teaching staff

Independent Studies Coordinator

Anja Thiel
031 631 37 57 / B 266
anja.thiel@ens.unibe.ch

Assessment of Courses and Information about your Results

Individual course instructors and Notice
Boards

KSL Enquiries

Sarah Zürcher and Nia Stephens-Metcalf
031 631 82 45 / D 201
sarah.zuercher@ens.unibe.ch
nia.stephens@ens.unibe.ch

Diploma Supplements BA / MA (Studienleitung)

Marijke Denger
031 631 33 95 / B 263
marijke.denger@ens.unibe.ch

Enrolment for Theses and Exams

Sarah Zürcher
031 631 82 45 / D 201
sarah.zuercher@ens.unibe.ch

Library Enquiries

Nina Müller
031 631 83 72 / B 271
nina.mueller@ub.unibe.ch

Academic Staff

Professors

- Prof. Dr. Thomas Claviez *
Literary Theory & World Literature/American Studies, Head of Department
- Prof. Dr. David Britain *
Modern English Linguistics
- Prof. Dr. Annette Kern-Stähler *
Medieval English Studies
- Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter *
Modern English Literature
- Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl *
Literatures in English/North American Studies
- Prof. Dr. Crispin Thurlow
Language and Communication

Lecturers

- Dr. Franz Andres Morrissey *
Language and Linguistics
- Dr. Sue Fox *
Language and Linguistics
- PD Dr. Nadja Gernalzick*
Literatures in English/North American Studies & Literary Theory
- Dr. Adrian Leemann*
Language and Linguistics
- Dr. Margaret Mace-Tessler*
English Languages and Literature
- Dr. Nicole Nyffenegger*
Modern English Literature & Medieval English Studies

Senior/Post-Doc Assistants

- Dr. Rory Critten *
Medieval English Studies
- Dr. Irmtraud Huber *
Modern English Literature
- Dr. des. Zoe Lehmann *
Modern English Literature
- Dr. Kathrin Scheuchzer *
Medieval English Studies
- PD Dr. Julia Straub *
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Assistants/Doctoral Researchers

- Ms Sofie Behluli, M.A.
Literatures in English/North American Studies
- Mr Matthias Berger, M.A.
Medieval English Studies
- Ms Maida Bilkic, M.A.*
Language and Communication
- Ms Claudine Bollinger, M.A.*
Modern English Literature
- Ms Dominique Bürki, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Dr. Christina Cavedon
Literary Theory
- Mr Joseph Comer, M.A.*
Language and Communication
- Ms Marijke Denger, M.A.
Modern English Literature
- Ms Hannah Hedegard, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Ms Vanessa Jaroski, M.A.
Language and Communication
- Mr Ryan Kopaitich, M.A.
Literary Theory
- Mr Tobias Leonhardt, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Ms Sara Lynch, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Ms Gwynne Mapes, M.A.
Language and Communication
- Ms Viola Marchi, M.A.*
Literary Theory
- Mr Christoph Neuenschwander, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Ms Jakhan Pirhulyieva, M.A.
Modern English Literature
- Ms Anja Thiel, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Ms Laura Tresch, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics
- Mr Waylon Weber, M.A.
Literary Theory

* *Teaching this semester*

Administrative Staff

Secretaries

Sarah Zürcher	Monday	9-10, 13:45-15:15
	Wednesday	9-10
	Thursday	9-10, 13:45-15:15

Monika Iseli-Felder	Tuesday	9-10, 13:45-15:15
	Wednesday	9-10

Directors' Assistant

Nia Stephens-Metcalf	By appointment
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IT Coordinator & Web Administrator

Fayaz Ali Khan	By appointment
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Librarian

Nina Müller	Monday-Thursday
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Information is subject to change. Please consult the notice boards and the departmental website regularly.

BACHELOR STUDIES

Language Foundation Module

Course Type:	Language Course
Title:	Modern English Grammar I
Instructor:	F. Andres Morrissey
Time:	Tuesday 8-10
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: This is the first part of a two-semester module which will provide an overview of Modern English Grammar. In this part we will be looking at the grammar of the noun phrase as well as some aspects of English verb forms. The focus will be on exploring practical examples and then trying to deduce the grammatical rules that underlie them, in other words, a descriptive rather than a prescriptive approach. The ultimate goal is to develop an overview of Modern English Grammar that will serve as a reference for future work, be it in the study of language, in teaching, in which some students will find themselves involved, and in a more detailed understanding of the subtleties and nuances of the language that have an impact on the understanding of literary texts.

It is highly recommended that students attend the course sessions, but it is clear that as the course is offered only in one time slot, this may create a timetabling problem for minor students. For this reason the entire course is also podcasted and the solutions to the practical exercises are available online (link on www.morrissey.unibe.ch). Furthermore, we offer tutorial sessions to help students work with the materials. It is urgently recommended that students who cannot attend the course for timetable reasons take part in the tutorials.

Texts: The course script for the entire course will be sold for CHF 25.– in the first session, but it can also be downloaded as a PDF from www.morrissey.unibe.ch. The course is also available as a podcast and can be downloaded from the regular downloads page www.morrissey.unibe.ch. Useful textbooks include *Rediscover Grammar* by David Crystal, and McCarthy and Carter's *English Grammar* (CUP).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Final module exam

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of Spring Semester 2017

Course Type: Language Course

Title: Writing Skills I

Instructors: N. Gernalzick / M. Mace-Tessler / N. Nyffenegger

Times: Monday 10-12 or
Tuesday 10-12 or
Wednesday 16-18 or
Thursday 8-10 or 10-12 or
Friday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: This is the first of a two-part intensive writing course which is obligatory for all first-year students. The two-semester programme will consist of weekly workshops in which students, in small groups, will discuss and, above all, practise the skills required to write academic papers. During the first semester, the students will write short papers which will allow them to focus on the appropriate and clear use of language, as well as the development of cohesion and logical structure.

Texts: The Writing Skills I booklet will be available for purchase at the Bugeno in the Uni-Hauptgebäude at the beginning of the semester. Some material may also be posted on ILIAS.

Aims: To develop the basic skills for writing a well-structured research paper which is based on a detailed analysis of an issue.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative written work

Grade Requirement: Evaluation of written work

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout term

Core Curriculum Linguistics and History of English

Course Type: Lecture

Title: Introduction to Linguistics

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Wednesday 8-10

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: This lecture provides an overview of the field of linguistics in English, in a first part mainly exploring what we call micro-linguistics, i.e. the way language works in itself. We will cover such topics as speech sounds and the way they interact (phonetics and phonology), the way words are composed (morphology), how words are combined into phrases and clauses (syntax) and how meaning is constructed (semantics). In a second, rather shorter part, as our section predominately works in this area, we will examine how language operates in context and how communication in conversations works (or does not, as the case may be).

Texts: Apart from consulting introductory materials on the presence shelf, students are advised to buy either or both of the following books:

Radford, A. et al. 2009. *Linguistics: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kuiper, K. and Allan, S. 2003. *An Introduction to English Language: Word, sound and sentence*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Evaluation (pass/fail): This course is not eligible for required optional credits. All participants have to pass the graded exam.

Grade Requirement: This lecture is part of the Core Curriculum Linguistics and History of English module. The other part of this module is **Earlier Englishes**. The two courses will be assessed in ONE examination at the end of the course. Students must pass both parts individually.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 5 January 2017

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Earlier Englishes

Instructor: R. Critten

Time: Tuesday 12-14

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description, Aims, and Outcomes: This course introduces students to the English Middle Ages (c.400-c.1500) and aims to provide them with the philological skills required in order to engage with some of the vernacular cultures that flourished during this period. The most basic principles of Old and Middle English grammar will thus be taught with a view to making texts written in these languages accessible; we will also devote attention to the various material, historical, and intellectual contexts in which these texts were produced and which they, in turn, helped to shape. Students who successfully complete the course will have a good reading facility in Old and Middle English and they will have a preliminary understanding of the worlds that these languages were used to describe. They will be ready and, it is hoped, excited to take up the Department's medieval offerings in the course of their subsequent studies.

Evaluation (pass/fail): This course is not eligible for required option credits. All participants must pass the graded exam.

Grade requirement: This course is part of the Core Curriculum Linguistics and History of English module. The other part of the module is Introduction to Linguistics. Students must pass both Introduction to Linguistics and Earlier Englishes (both with a grade "4" or higher) in order to pass the Core Curriculum module as a whole.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Exam date: The Earlier Englishes exam will take place in the last class of the term.

Core Curriculum Literature

Course Type: Lecture

Title: Introduction to Literature

Instructor: J. Straub

Time: Monday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: This lecture will provide an introduction to certain methods, concepts and tools students of literatures in English are advised to use when approaching literary texts. These will help them to obtain a fuller understanding of texts and to express themselves clearly and competently. Furthermore we will look at literature as a particular form of communication, i.e. we will consider the specificity of literary texts, and its various genres: drama, narrative fiction, poetry.

Texts: Texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: This lecture aims to familiarize students with central concepts and tools for the analysis of literary texts of various genres. Students should obtain clear ideas of approaches to literature, methodologies, terminology and strategies of literary interpretation.

Evaluation (pass/fail): This course is not eligible for required optional credits. All participants have to pass the graded exam.

Grade Requirement: This lecture is part of the Core Curriculum Literature. The lecture and the corresponding seminar Introduction to Literature will be assessed in ONE examination on Thursday, 19 December 2016. The grade for this written test will be the grade for the Core Curriculum (including seminar).

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Exam date: 19 December 2016

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Introduction to Literature

Instructor: C. Bollinger

Time: Monday 2-4pm

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: In combination with the lecture Introduction to Literature, this seminar familiarises students with concepts and tools which are important for the discussion and interpretation of literary texts both in written and oral form. We will read selected literary texts together and improve students' interpretative and analytical skills, drawing and expanding upon the subject matter of the lecture.

Texts: Copies of Henry James' *Turn of the Screw* and Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* will be available at the Bugeno bookshop at the Hauptgebäude at the start of the semester. The poems we will discuss in class will be made available on ILIAS.

The preferred editions are:

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*. 1898. Ed. Peter G. Beidler. (Boston: Bedford, Palgrave Mac-Millan, 2010) (3rd edition) ISBN: 978-0-312-59706-1. Please note this edition has additional critical material which we will be using.

Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*. 1945. (London: Penguin, 2009) ISBN: 978-0-141-19026-6

Aims: This seminar aims to provide students with an understanding of the thematic and formal breadth of literatures in English and practical know-how. Students will learn how to analyse literary texts belonging to different genres and periods and acquire interpretative skills.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work.

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Core Curriculum Literature will be based on the module exam which will take place in the last session of the lecture Introduction to Literature on 15 December 2016.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 December 2016

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Introduction to Literature

Instructor: N. Gernalzick

Time: Wednesday 14-16

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: This seminar offers in-depth application of terminology and techniques discussed in the Introduction to Literature lecture. We will interpret and analyse together examples of short story, drama, and poetry. You will write several short analyses of literary works to prepare you for the written analysis section of the module exam.

Texts: The materials for this course will be announced through ILIAS.

Aims: This seminar aims to consolidate the material presented in the lecture and extend into application and further perspectives.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work.

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Core Curriculum Literature will be based on the module exam which will take place in the last session of the lecture Introduction to Literature on 15 December 2016.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 December 2016

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Introduction to Literature

Instructor: M. Mace-Tessler

Time: Tuesday 14-16

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: In combination with the lecture **Introduction to Literature**, this seminar will familiarise students with concepts and tools which are important for the discussion and interpretation of literary texts both in written and oral form. The class will read selected literary texts to develop interpretative and analytical skills while drawing and expanding upon the subject matter of the lecture course.

Texts: *Heart of Darkness* and *Arcadia* will be on sale at the Bugeno in the Hauptgebäude. The poems we will study will be available on ILIAS.

Aims: To provide students with an opportunity to develop their understanding of the texts. By analysing literary texts belonging to different genres and periods, they will acquire skills and improve their ability to interpret.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work.

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Core Curriculum Literature will be based on the module exam which will take place in the last session of the lecture **Introduction to Literature** on 15 December.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 December 2016

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Introduction to Literature

Instructor: K. Scheuchzer

Time: Friday 14-16

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: In combination with the lecture **Introduction to Literature**, this seminar familiarises students with concepts and tools which are important for the discussion and interpretation of literary texts both in written and oral form. We will read selected literary texts together and thus develop interpretative and analytical skills while drawing and expanding upon the subject matter of the lecture course.

Texts: We will read a selection of primary texts from the medieval, early modern and modern periods. All texts will be made available on ILIAS at the beginning of the semester.

Aims: This seminar aims to provide students with an understanding of the thematic and formal breadth of literatures in English and with practical know-how. Students will learn how to analyse literary texts belonging to different genres and periods and will acquire interpretative skills.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation in class and completion of reading assignments.

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Core Curriculum module will be based on the module exam which will take place in the last session of the lecture **Introduction to Literature** on Thursday, 15 December 2016.

Resit date: 15 February 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 December 2016

Focus Module: Communities and Contact
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Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Multilingualism

Instructor: S. Fox

Time: Wednesday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The course will introduce students to various aspects of multilingualism from a sociolinguistic perspective. We will examine different kinds of multilingualism both at the individual and societal level. The course will introduce concepts such as bilingualism, acquiring and maintaining a bilingual repertoire and codeswitching in conversation among individual speakers. At the societal level, the course will consider different patterns of societal multilingualism including diglossia and old and new linguistic minorities. We will also explore how in many multilingual contexts the co-existence with a majority language leads to the endangerment of minority languages, and how phenomena such as language shift, death and loss can be counteracted by means of language policy and planning as well as multilingual education. In the final part of the course we will look at the topics of globalisation, language spread and new multilingualisms and the study of the Linguistic Landscape as an approach to multilingualism.

Texts: Readings will be placed on ILIAS for each session.

Aims: The learning goals for this Focus Module Lecture course are:

- to have acquired an understanding of some of the key concepts and theories in the field of individual and societal multilingualism,
- to be aware of some of the principal methodologies used in the study of multilingualism,
- to be able to apply some of the issues of multilingualism to your own experiences as language learners/users.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Your engagement and learning in this Focus Module Lecture will be assessed by ONE examination on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

Grade Requirement: Lecture test. The grade for the whole focus module (lecture + one seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Re-sit date: 21 December 2016

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 7 December 2016

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Multiethnolects

Instructor: S. Fox

Time: Tuesday 12 – 14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The term *multiethnolect* is used to mean the new forms of language and new ways of speaking, usually among young people of both immigrant and non-immigrant backgrounds, that have arisen in large multilingual cities. They have emerged due to high levels of language contact brought about by massive increases both in the amount and diversity of immigration in the last fifty years or so. In Oslo, for example, 125 different languages are now spoken and in London over 300 languages are reported as spoken in its schools. In this seminar, we will explore the multiethnolects that have been documented in European cities such as Oslo, London, Stockholm and Berlin as well as considering similar language developments in places such as Nairobi and Jakarta. We will consider the social and historical conditions that have brought these varieties into existence and we will also examine some of the innovative linguistic forms of the different languages of the countries under consideration. In the final part of the seminar we will look at attitudes towards these varieties and the effect that these attitudes might have on the long-term existence of the innovative forms.

Texts: Readings will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: Students successfully completing the course should have acquired a good understanding of the use of the term multiethnolect to refer to the new forms of language and new ways of speaking in Europe and other large multilingual cities. Students should also be aware of the social and historical conditions in which these varieties have emerged. Students should also be able to appraise and respond to the views and presentations of others as found in published texts as well as in class.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation in class and a class presentation.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, a class presentation and a written paper of approximately 4000 words.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 16 January 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Language and Prejudice

Instructor: M. Bilkic

Time: Thursday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: Prejudice is defined as dislike, hostility or unjust behaviour deriving from pre-conceived and unfounded opinions. Much of social psychological theory and research over the past century has been concerned with prejudice and how it leads to discrimination and violence. However, apart from being expressed emotionally or physically, discrimination, conflict and violence as products of a person holding derogatory social attitudes that are often based upon imaginary fears and prejudgements, are expressed verbally as well. Social prejudice often manifests through language use, and language is inextricably linked with every form of prejudice, be it explicit expression, implicit transmission of beliefs or the subtle distortion of perception. Language transmits prejudice, reveals prejudiced beliefs, distorts perception, and can be the basis of prejudice or a tool for change. Prejudicial beliefs may become socially acceptable linguistic features, communicated from person to person, from one generation to the next. As language often makes hostility seem justifiable, it also provides the basis for approaching various forms of the modern world violence.

This seminar, from a fully interdisciplinary perspective, focuses on the way language influences society's view on ethnicity, religion, race, gender, sexual preferences, etc. Thought-provoking topic selections ask students to think about timely and relevant issues ranging from linguistic violence to the ways language influences our perception of group settings and the social world. The seminar aims to help students write more thoughtfully and to think more critically about the importance of choosing and evaluating language "wisely".

Texts: The seminar will rely on a series of articles, chapters and video materials made available on ILIAS. The readings for the seminar will be mixed – drawing not just from linguistics but also from related disciplines, including both theoretical and empirical papers. Students will be expected to pursue these materials independently.

Aims: The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to major themes, key theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches in the study of language and prejudice. It also aims to develop a greater understanding of how expressed hostility and violence towards those who are perceived as "different" influence human social behaviour in general. The seminar is suited for students with an interest in thinking about these issues within an interdisciplinary framework of linguistics, critical theory and psycho-social studies which can be applied to provide effective ways of addressing social and existential questions.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Throughout the semester students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of course material through active participation in class discussions, individual work,

and the completion of in-class assignments. The final grade for the seminar will be comprised of the following:

1. Reading quizzes 30%
2. Individual/group presentation 30%
3. Thought essay paper 20%
4. Final test exam 20%

Grade Requirement: If you are taking this seminar for 7 ECTS, you will be expected to take a final test exam. Moreover, to encourage creativity and critical thinking about the readings, you will be asked to write a brief thought essay which must be completed and submitted by the end of the last day of the seminar. The essay can take any one of a number of forms: a critical analysis of one particular reading, an idea for further research, a suggestion for a modification of a theory, an integration of two or more articles, etc.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Everything must be completed and submitted by the end of the last day of the seminar.

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Facing the Full English: The Challenge for Minority Languages and Language Minorities

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Wednesday 10-12

First Session: 16 September 2016

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: This seminar explores, mainly on the basis of the situation in the British Isles, but with reference to other situations where minority languages compete with language majorities, how speakers of both groups relate to each other, what the likely developments of language use in the societies concerned are, whether threatened minority languages can be preserved or even revitalised, what would be needed to achieve this and whether it would be worth the effort. Alongside such considerations based on the insights of sociolinguistics and the sociology of language, we will be exploring the discourse that is used to comment on the decline of minority languages, the attempts to preserve their purity and the justifications that are being mustered in support of preserving declining languages, in terms of ideology, politics/language policies and financial expenditure.

Students are expected to explore aspects of the subject and to present their insights from the literature in class in an interactive session including group and plenary discussions.

Texts: These will be made available by download from www.morrissey.unibe.ch.

Aims: To explore aspects of the sociology of language and of sociolinguistics with special regard to the imbalance of power between majority and minority groups.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Directing an interactive session of the seminar

Grade Requirement: A podcast on a specific topic or a seminar paper

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 4 February 2017

Course Type:	Focus Module Seminar
Title:	Global Discourse Methods
Instructor:	J. Comer
Time:	Tuesday 14-16
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)
Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Course Description: This hands-on, method-oriented seminar is designed to introduce students to the analysis of everyday spoken and written discourse. Human beings are dependent on language to describe the world, represent (or misrepresent) it, justify our place in it, construct ours and others' identities, establish and maintain relationships, and inexorably, to exert power (often in discriminatory or marginalising ways). This is language as social action and as social institution – both are the focus of *discourse studies*.

This seminar will cover a diverse range of everyday “micro” and “macro” contexts while exploring a number of key approaches and methodologies in discourse studies. To begin the semester, we will look into spoken discourse (e.g. conversation analysis and interactional sociolinguistics) before quickly turning – in line with the vast technological advancements of the past few decades – to written and visual discourse (e.g. multimodality, computer-mediated communication, and corpus analysis) in the later part of the semester.

As a thematic focus, this course will examine methods through a transnational and critical lens, investigating the complex and historically contingent properties of the globalised world and the pervasive rhetoric of “the global village”. The contemporary world – inalienable from global capitalism and the omnipresent and universalising discourse of globalization – can be understood as a social construction and discursive formation. We witness it forming in the rapid dissemination and tracking of information via hashtags on Twitter, the economic impact of celebrities' appearance on the cover of globally-recognised magazines, and the different ways news organizations cover tragedies, depending on whether they happen in Africa, East Asia or Australia. The methods we discuss in this course can enhance our understanding of these phenomena, and many more.

Texts: You are expected to get hold of a copy of this textbook:

Cameron, D. & Panović, I. (2014). *Working with Written Discourse*. London: Sage.

We will be working extensively with this text. In some weeks you may be required to read multiple chapters; otherwise, you will be covering one chapter a week.

In addition to this textbook, the course will rely on a series of interdisciplinary articles made available as PDFs on ILIAS, which you will be expected to follow week-by-week. You will be expected to pursue this reading material independently, assisted by ‘signpost’ assessment and in-class discussion throughout the semester.

Aims: The two primary learning goals for this seminar are for you:

- to have a reasonable understanding of what historical and contemporary sociolinguistic/discourse analytic approaches have been developed by scholars from across different disciplinary backgrounds (e.g. discourse analysis, participant observation, social semiotics);
- to have a reasonable understanding of a range of interdisciplinary perspectives on globalization;

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular, respectful and thoughtful participation in seminar discussions and cumulative coursework. In order to pass this class you must fulfil the following requirements:

- complete a series of academic readings that constitute the theoretical and methodological framing for the seminar;
- complete six reading quizzes (each composed of six questions) relating to these readings.

The quizzes are graded out of 10 for all. In order to pass this course you must have achieved at least 60% for each quiz.

Grade Requirement: Regular, sustained participation in seminar discussions and cumulative coursework (reading quizzes), in addition to a review test around the final week of the semester. This review test will address the material covered in the weekly readings and key ideas/concepts/issues from in-class demonstration and discussion. If you are taking this seminar as a graded Focus Module seminar, then these tasks are weighted: 40% of the final grade for the reading quizzes, and 40% for the review test. The remaining 20% is made up through engagement in in-class exercises and mini-projects (credit/no credit).

Your final percentage will be converted to the UniBe's 6-point scale. Your final grade will be converted as follows:

60-68% = 4.0	69-76% = 4.5
77-84% = 5.0	85-92% = 5.5
93-100% = 6.0	

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Everything must be completed and submitted one week after the last day of the seminar.

Focus Module: Intermediality

Course Type:	Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)
Title:	Word-Image Configurations – Modes of Production and Reception
Instructor:	G. Rippl / P. J. Schneemann
Time:	Tuesday 14-16
First Session:	27 September 2016
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: This interdisciplinary lecture course will be jointly given by G. Rippl, Professor of Literatures in English, and P. J. Schneemann, an art historian and Professor of Contemporary Art at our university. In this lecture we will explore the field of intermediality studies, giving particular attention to the manifold word-image configurations in twentieth- and twenty-first century Anglophone literature and the arts. Our discussions will focus on the different modes of production and reception of word-image configurations.

In contemporary Anglophone literature, many literary texts include pictures or refer to a variety of images in many different ways. In visual art, the status of the text has changed as well. Artists understand the text not only as a tool to articulate their intentions, and they do not use it as a mere source; instead, they treat it as an autonomous medium, intertextually reflecting upon a variety of text genres. In terms of perception, ekphrasis allows for new approaches to the anachronistic fragmentation in art perception and addresses the shifts between the presence of the work and its imagination, the anticipation of the aesthetic gaze and its memory. Contemporary ekphrasis functions as a narrative of the existence of a work and as fiction about its social relevance. The public takes an active part in the production of these stories.

We will begin by investigating theoretical, systematic and methodological questions and then move on to aspects of production as well as aspects of reception. We will also explore narration/description (ekphrasis), genre (documentary genres, autobiography, diary, travel accounts, letters, interviews, etc.), participatory modes of production/reception, and settings/places.

Texts: In addition to visual works of art, a selection of primary and secondary texts will be discussed during the lecture. Students from the Department of English are advised to read during term break: Teju Cole: *Every Day Is for the Thief* (2007/2014), Donna Tartt: *The Goldfinch* (2013) and Siri Hustvedt: *The Blazing World* (2014). Please check the Ilias platform for additional reading material at the beginning of September 2016.

Aims: This lecture will introduce students to (a) the rich fields of intermediality and ekphrasis theory as well as to (b) the exciting field of contemporary word-image constellations in literary and artistic cultural products/works of art. Furthermore, it will teach them to analyze critically contemporary Anglophone literary texts as well as contemporary works of art and to work in an interdisciplinary way (literary and cultural studies/art history). Methodological questions will be raised

in addition to theoretical and systematic ones, helping students to develop their visual literacy and interdisciplinary competences.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students get 3 ECTS points for a) regularly attending the lecture and b) for passing a written test on Tuesday, 6 December 2016, 14:15–15:45. Please note that the re-sit will take place on Tuesday, 20 December 2014, 14:15–15:45.

Grade Requirement: Final written exam. The grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture and seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Resit date: Tuesday, 20 December 2014, 14:15–15:45

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 6 December 2016

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Literature and Digital Media

Instructor: J. Straub

Time: Monday 16-18

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: Over the last thirty years, the rise of digital media has had a major impact on writing and publishing practices, the experience of reading and the way we talk and think about 'literature.' Media theorists have examined the complex relationships between the book as an old medium, and digital technologies, many of which completely challenge conventional definitions not only of the book as a material object but also of literature as a signifying practice. Concomitant discourses affect notions of the author, copyright, originality, creativity and textuality, but also the public perception of reading as a means of education. The internet offers manifold platforms where literature can be created collectively, shared for free, spread more rapidly than ever before beyond the confines traditionally established and upheld by the publishing industry. E-readers generate a new reading experience and tempt even the greatest bibliophiles away from printed books. Twitter novels emulate communication patterns gleaned from social media, while prominent American authors such as Dave Eggers explore Silicon Valley corporate culture as a site of dystopia. So the intersections between literature / literary studies and digital media are manifold.

Texts: In this seminar we will focus on three prominent fields of interest:

- 1.) **Aesthetic responses to digital media.** How have literary texts responded on a formal and aesthetic level to digital media? Preparatory reading: Jennifer Egan. *Black Box* (Kindle edition) or available via the *New Yorker* Magazine online.
- 2.) **Representations of digital media in literature.** How are digital media and their shaping impact on our daily lives depicted in literary texts? Preparatory reading: Dave Eggers. *The Circle* (Vintage 2014) and Jonathan Franzen. *Purity* (Fourth Estate 2015)
- 3.) **The History of the Book and digital media (i.e., media history).** Which interplay exists between the book as a medium of print with distinct material features and cultural functions and digital media? Reading: selected theoretical texts (will be made available on ILIAS).

Students are advised to read the texts mentioned above before the semester begins.

Aims:

- Students are able to give a reasonably sophisticated, clear, and persuasive account in English of the meaning, structure, and quality of a literary text.
- Students can relate the specific features of literary communication to other signifying practices (e.g., visual arts, film etc.).
- Students can give these accounts in different formats and contexts
- Students can develop critical analyses independently and in co-operation with other students.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation in class, and a presentation.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation in class, a presentation, and one final essay.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 15 January 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: The Art of Metamorphosis

Instructor: V. Marchi

Time: Thursday 12-14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: *The butterfly's attractiveness derives not only from colors and symmetry: deeper motives contribute to it. We would not think them so beautiful [...] if they did not enact the mystery of metamorphosis, which assumes in our eyes the value of a message, a symbol, a sign.* (Primo Levi)

From classical mythopoeic device to threshold marking the limits of the 'human,' and throughout its long history, the literary *topos* of metamorphosis as "the action or process of changing in form, shape, or substance" (*OED*) has always contested and problematized the alleged unity, coherence, and purity of the Self and its status as subject in a world of objects. For this reason, despite its potential for radical change and production of the 'new,' metamorphosis seems unable to shed its eerie and uncanny overtones, often bordering on the horrific and the pathological.

In the seminar we will trace the development and the different uses of the concept of metamorphosis - from Ovid to Kafka, from Surrealism to contemporary American literature - and, although the focus will be on its literary aspects, we will complement our investigation with brief incursions in the film and art worlds.

Texts: The majority of the texts, as well as a complete list of titles, will be made available on ILIAS before the beginning of the semester.

Aims: To develop the students' skills of analysis and interpretation and familiarize them with the diachronic development of a central literary motive and with its synchronic deployments in a variety of contemporary interdisciplinary fields (such as post-humanism) and theoretical intersections (e.g., literature and neuroscience, literature and biological life, etc.).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and oral presentation in the seminar.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, oral presentation and final seminar paper (4000 words).

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 January 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Word and Image in Medieval and Reformation England

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler, M. Berger, K. Scheuchzer

Time: Thursday 14-16

First Session: 29 September 2016

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: “What’s in an image?”, asked psychologist Ernest Dichter in 1985, echoing Juliet’s musings on the relevance of names in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Although Dichter asked this question in relation to modern-day marketing, it is no less relevant when we consider word-image relations in medieval and early modern England. In this seminar, we will take an intermedial approach to the study of medieval and early modern cultures, exploring the different kinds of intermedial relations between word and image.

A large number of manuscripts and early printed books not only contained text but also illustrations. Devotional literature often relied on the visual appeal and impact of images alongside the words on the page. The *Biblia pauperum*, a tradition of picture bibles, dispensed with the text almost entirely, giving the image pride of place and thus making the Scriptures accessible to a wider audience that was mostly illiterate. Biblical images also influenced medieval drama, which made extensive use of an iconography that would immediately have been recognised by its spectators and which became immensely popular in the late Middle Ages. Conversely, the vivid scenes from medieval drama influenced late medieval religious imagery.

With the onset of the Reformation, images were gradually banned not only from the stage but also from the churches. This iconoclasm, the destruction of devotional images, informed much of the reformers’ and early Protestant writers’ work, giving renewed focus to the written rather than the visual medium. And yet, Reformation literature and propaganda is replete with images that play with traditional, medieval iconography and we may wonder what their purpose was if the word was considered to be the superior medium.

Texts: All texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to medieval and Reformation studies and, more specifically, to familiarize them with an understanding of the relations between word and image within a specific national and cultural context.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Will be based on regular attendance, active participation in class and completion of cumulative course work.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation in class, cumulative course work and a seminar paper of approx. 3000-4000 words.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 27 January 2017

Focus Module: Violence in Literature

Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture

Instructor: N. Nyffenegger

Time: Wednesday 10-12

First session: 28 September (second week)

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: Bloodthirsty warriors, crusading knights, murderous conspirators, the public torture of martyrs, the agony of Christ on the cross, infanticide, suicide, regicide, war, murder, and rape . . . Representations of violence abound in medieval literature and a widely shared “shaggy medievalism” (Umberto Eco) interprets them as witnesses of a distant and dark age. While the self-proclaimed rebirth of a golden age in the Renaissance arguably did bring about many cultural changes, literary representations of violence clearly show more continuities than breaks. Consequently, we will bridge the medieval/early modern divide in this lecture while also framing our discussions as a “distant mirror” (Barbara Tuchman) of our own attitudes about and engagement with violence. This lecture introduces students to representations of violence across a wide range of genres and periods (covering roughly the 10th-17th centuries). The topic will be approached thematically rather than chronologically and the examples from medieval and early modern literature and art will be embedded in relevant theoretical approaches to questions of power, identity, religion, ethics, gender, and the animal-human relationship.

Texts: Students will be asked to read short primary and secondary or theoretical texts from week to week. These will be announced in the session and uploaded on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to representations of violence in medieval and early modern literature and culture and to discuss relevant theoretical approaches to the topic.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, thorough preparation of set texts, quiz in session of 7 December 2016

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Focus Module is acquired in the respective seminar. Please note that the lecture quiz needs to be passed in order to get the mark for the whole FM. MA minor students and exchange students who need a mark are asked to notify me in the first week of term.

Resit date: 21 December 2016

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 7 December 2016

Course Type:	Focus Module Seminar
Title:	The Spectacle of Violence
Instructor:	N. Nyffenegger
Time:	Wednesday 14-16
First session:	28 September (second week)
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)
Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Course Description: From the public spectacle of medieval martyrdom to the performance of violence on the Elizabethan stage, who is the one who watches and why? What is the spectator's role in the theatre of violence and how does it intertwine with our own engagement with the works? How do we as readers get involved in the mechanisms of publically displayed violence when we read about torture, rape, and murder; how do we as theatre-goers become complicit in the deed when we watch it being performed on stage? Finally, when we discuss violence in medieval and early modern literature in class, how can we steer free of a sensationalist interest that emphasises the alterity of "back then" and thus transforms the violence portrayed into a mere fossil of the distant past?

This FM seminar is closely linked to the FM lecture in that the primary, secondary, and theoretical texts discussed in the lecture will be revisited in more depth. At the same time, we approach the topic of violence from the slightly different angle of spectacle. Our readings will be supplemented by representations of violence in medieval and early modern art as well as in modern performance and film.

Texts: Primary and secondary texts will be uploaded on Ilias.

Aims: To continue and expand discussions begun in the lecture and to approach the topic of violence from the specific focus of spectacle. To reflect on representations of violence in the medieval and early modern eras and their relevance for our own engagement with violence.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of set texts, active participation in class discussions, regular attendance, one presentation or minutes taking (depending on student numbers), one paper project presentation.

Grade Requirement: All of the above plus a written paper of 3000-4000 words. **Students who want to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.**

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 February 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Interplanetary Violence: Science Fiction and Civilisation

Instructor: Z. Lehmann Imfeld

Time: Friday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: In this course we will look at the ways in which science fiction as a literary genre has portrayed the violence of human beings in 'civilisation'. We will read texts which imagine the threat of external violence (or an imagined threat), as well as texts which acknowledge human violence as a response to xenophobia, tribalism, gender dynamics and fear. The texts will show us how mythical figures and cultural myths can be appropriated as expressions of this fear. We'll also think about how control over others might be considered violent, using AI (artificial intelligence) fiction.

As well as the two canonical novels on the reading list, we'll draw on short fiction from Octavia Butler, Harlan Ellison, Stephen Baxter and Ursula le Guinn as well as some lesser known SF.

Texts: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Penguin 2005, 978-0141441030
Arthur C. Clarke, *Childhood's End*, S.F. Masterworks 2010 (1954), 978-0575082359
Further shorter texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: Students will explore science fiction as a literary genre, and gain an understanding of the literary themes permeating the genre, such as the permeation of myth and existential anxiety.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Seminar attendance and active participation, including short presentations where applicable. Short written essay outline (ca. 500 words).

Grade Requirement: Seminar attendance and active participation, including short presentations where applicable. 4000 word essay.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 27 January 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Pacific Fictions

Instructor: N. Gernalzick

Time: Thursday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The violence involved in the transatlantic and transcontinental colonization of the Americas since the 15th century is well documented and known. Since the second half of the 20th century, works of literature have played a major role in reconfiguring rationales, motivations, histories, and narratives of violence and migration in respect of the Americas. This seminar extends the historical perspective from the Far West of the U.S. into the Pacific: How is the history of transpacific migration fictionalized in respect of violence? What is to be conceived of as violence in literature? We shall read and discuss together works by Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sui Sin Far, Jack London, Robinson Jeffers, Frank Chin, and Maxine Hong Kingston, focussing on the transpacific between the U.S. West Coast, Polynesia, and China.

Texts: Short fiction readings will be announced on ILIAS. Please prepare by reading Herman Melville's *Typee* (1845) and Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts* (1976) in any edition available to you and before the beginning of the course.

Aims: Introduction to concepts of violence and text, and to transpacific migration; practice in close reading; application of critical concepts in analysis.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, reading, participation, and short presentation

Grade Requirement: Presentation, seminar paper

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 January 2017

Other Courses

Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Speechifying

Instructor: M. Mace-Tessler

Time: Monday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: What makes a speech convincing and memorable? What can make a good class presentation into a better one? Each week this course will address these questions in two steps. First, effective speeches will be analysed as models to discover techniques that can be used to improve both oral and written work. Second, all class members will write and deliver speeches, practice formulating developed responses quickly, and conceive, research, organize and deliver oral presentations on a variety of topics. In a supportive atmosphere, both confident and reticent speakers can develop these skills.

Texts: The readings for each week (usually one or two speeches) will be available on ILIAS.

Aims: To give students extensive practice in oral work, and to increase their sense of how to build an argument

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 December 2016

Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Creative Writing

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Thursday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The workshop is run on two levels. On the one hand, a variety of activities are explored to “get the creative juices flowing” so there will be some *in situ* text production. On the other hand, we will discuss texts written by members of the group and make suggestions for editing and redrafting, which requires being constructively critical of one’s own and each other’s work. Depending on the number of students in the group this will be done in class, e.g. in the form of regular feedback discussions or in post-it sessions. With bigger groups we will also attempt to set up a virtual classroom where texts can be posted and discussed.

Anybody is welcome to attend the workshop. As some participants come to the workshop for more than one semester, there are those whose work may be rather impressive. New participants should not be discouraged by this because with experience, one’s writing changes and often improves as a result of peer group feedback and learning how to edit. This means that all participants must be prepared to rewrite their work repeatedly, taking this into account. Writing is perhaps best summed up by Horace’s words: “Often you must turn your stylus to erase, if you hope to write anything worth a second reading.”

Texts: That’s what you will produce...

Aims: To tap the creative potential in students and to explore the ways along which an open mind may lead us; to improve control of language through greater precision in expressing one’s thoughts and feelings; and, finally, greater awareness of the way texts, both written by students and published writers, work (or fail to).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work; you will be required to submit a dossier of edited work reflecting the activities covered in the workshop, which needs to be handed in as a hard copy no later than four weeks after the end of the semester.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 16 January 2015

Remarks: Priority for places in this workshop is given to students of the English Department.

Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Text in Performance

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Thursday 16-18

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: In this course we will explore various texts, excerpts from plays, both classic and contemporary, poetry, oral literature and, if time allows, some speeches, with a view to improving, firstly, the understanding of the textual material, including its translation into performance, and, secondly, to develop our skills in voice control, presentation and performance in public in general.

Participants are expected to engage actively in the course, at times also to supply their own textual inputs and, in some instances at least, to be prepared for spontaneous non-text bound production of speech.

In order to facilitate efficient work in the workshop and in the smaller ensemble groups, participants are expected to be extra conscientious as far as attendance and extracurricular work (individual rehearsal preparations, group work on scenes, etc.) are concerned.

Texts: The materials needed for this course will be made available online (www.morrissey.unibe.ch), or students will be asked to bring in their own material.

Aims: To develop an understanding for literary texts as oral performances, to develop techniques that will be useful for presentation and/or public speaking, including learning to speak freely and with minimal preparation.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work (see Remarks)

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Remarks: Priority for places in this workshop is given to students of the English Department. Please also note that all participants, in order to obtain credits, need to give a performance of a text/texts, which is to be discussed in advance with the instructor.

Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Shipmen, Physicians, and Manciples: Reading the Other Canterbury Tales

Instructor: R. Critten

Time: Tuesday 10-12

First Session: 17 September 2016

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: Most students' familiarity with *The Canterbury Tales* is limited to a small selection of frequently anthologized extracts from Chaucer's story collection (e.g. the prologues and tales of the miller, the reeve, and the wife of Bath). This reading course offers an alternative approach to the *Tales*, focusing on a selection of extracts that are less frequently read at the undergraduate level. The programme might be followed by students whose familiarity with *The Canterbury Tales* is limited to the extracts set in Earlier Englishes, in which case it will serve as a useful introduction to the breadth of Chaucer's achievement. It might also be taken by students who already have some familiarity with the *Tales* and who are interested in deepening their familiarity with this vast and multi-faceted text.

Texts: Students who have already bought *The Riverside Chaucer* are free to use that text. Students who have not already bought an edition of Chaucer or who find *The Riverside Chaucer* cumbersome should acquire the following set text: *The Canterbury Tales: Fifteen Tales and the General Prologue*, ed. V. A. Kolve and Glending Olson, 2nd ed. (New York: Norton, 2005) (as well as providing translations of Chaucer's sources and analogues in translation, this edition is more fully and more accessibly glossed than *The Riverside Chaucer*). Tales set that are not in Kolve and Glending's edition will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: The course aims to provide students with a sense of the vast range of interests pursued by Chaucer and by the readers for whom he wrote. It also affords students an opportunity to practise their close reading skills and to confirm their familiarity with Middle English.

Evaluation (pass/fail): students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the set texts. In addition to this basic requirement they will each be asked to lead one session in the term. During that session they will be the class "expert" and will be responsible for guiding group discussion. There is no requirement to sit an exam or to write a final paper.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type: Lecture / Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Liturgie – Ritus, Raum und Ausstattung,
Liturgy – Rite, Space and Objects

Instructor: Medievalists of University of Bern and guest speakers, BMZ
(Bern Mittelalter Zentrum)

Time: Thursday 17-19

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

BMZ: Das Berner Mittelalter Zentrum (BMZ) hat als interdisziplinäres und Synergien stiftendes Forum an der Universität Bern die Aufgabe, Forschung und Lehre sowie Öffentlichkeitsarbeit auf dem Gesamtgebiet der mittelalterlichen Geschichte und Kultur zu fördern und zu koordinieren. Dies geschieht durch gemeinsame Lehrveranstaltungen, Forschungsprojekte, Publikationen, Sprachkurse, Tagungen und Exkursionen sowie durch Gastvorträge von in- und ausländischen Gelehrten.

Course Description: In Liturgien hat der Gottesdienst Form gefunden, liturgische Handlungen bieten Gläubigen und Gemeinschaften einen festgefühten Rahmen für ihren Gottesdienst. Die Räume, in denen sie gefeiert werden, wurden für diese Handlungen konzipiert und errichtet; sie spiegeln – auch wenn zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt etwa Liturgiereformen nach Anpassung einer Raumkonfiguration verlangten – die Riten, die in ihnen vollzogen wurden. Kirchenbauten des Mittelalters sind in vielen Städten bis heute Identifikationsorte für deren Bürger und zugleich weithin wirksame architektonische Landmarken. Ihre Ausstattung, wie auch die von Synagogen, war nicht selten eine gemeinschaftliche Aufgabe oder bot Einzelnen Gelegenheit, mit Schenkungen und Stiftungen zur Ausgestaltung des liturgischen Raumes beizutragen, oder Schriften und Objekten, die zur Liturgie gehörten, eine würdige, gelegentlich sogar prunkvolle Fassung zu geben. In nicht wenigen Sprachen sind liturgische Texte des Mittelalters zu einem integralen Bestandteil des literarischen Erbes geworden; sie werden in nicht-liturgischen Kontexten zitiert oder fungieren als Referenzsystem, auf das sich nicht allein Dichtungen beziehen. Auch Musik gehört zur Ausgestaltung von Liturgien: Vokal- und zunehmend auch Instrumentalmusik haben seit dem Mittelalter liturgische Handlungen begleitet und akzentuiert; der Gebrauch bestimmter Instrumente wie die Entwicklung spezifischer Kompositionsformen gehören in diesen Kontext.

Die BMZ-Vorlesung des Herbstsemesters wird Liturgien des Judentums und der christlichen Kirchen des Mittelalters mit ihren historischen Bedingungen thematisieren; dabei sollen auch die Räume, in denen Liturgien gefeiert wurden (und werden), liturgische Texte und Musiken sowie die Objekte, die zu ihrem Vollzug gehörten, in den Blick genommen werden. Immer wieder soll dabei das Zusammenwirken von Ritus, Raum und Ausstattung thematisiert und der performative Charakter von Liturgien erörtert werden.

Location: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

- **As BA and MA lecture (graded or ungraded):** Regular presence, three follow-up sessions (dates *tba*). Please contact Dr Nicole Nyffenegger (nyffenegger@ens.unibe.ch) in the first week of term for details on these sessions and on the paper that will have to be submitted by the end of the term.
 - **As Wahlbereich lecture (graded):** Under the supervision of BMZ director Prof. Dr. Christian Hesse. Please check: http://www.bmz.unibe.ch/pdf/Anforderungen_Wahlbereich.pdf
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Course Type: Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Menschen und andere Primaten

Instructors: Collegium Generale

Time: Wednesday 18:15-19:45

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Collegium Generale: Das Collegium generale der Universität Bern ist die älteste eigenständige interdisziplinäre Institution der Universität. Es hat die Aufgabe, den fächerübergreifenden Dialog und die inter- und transdisziplinäre Vernetzung innerhalb der Universität durch Veranstaltungen für Lehrende, Nachwuchsforschende und Studierende aller Fakultäten zu fördern. In Veröffentlichungen und allgemeinbildenden Veranstaltungen vermittelt das Collegium generale Beispiele dieser Arbeit einer breiteren Öffentlichkeit.

Course Description: Affe und Mensch – das ist ein schwieriges Verwandtschaftsverhältnis. Genetisch und im Verhalten sehr nah, wird der Affe vom Menschen seit Jahrhunderten als Spiegel betrachtet. Im 20. Jahrhundert gewann die Forschung an und mit Affen rasant an Bedeutung. Seit der Jahrtausendwende hat kein anderes Tier derart an diskursiver Präsenz gewonnen, und die Wissenschaften wenden sich mit neuen kritischen Ansätzen dem alter ego des Menschen zu. Aus der Beobachtung unserer nächsten Verwandten erwarten wir Erkenntnisse über unsere Evolution und unser Verhalten, und die Erzählungen von der Herkunft und von den Herausforderungen des Mensch-Seins sind über disziplinäre Grenzen hinaus von Interesse. Die Vorlesungsreihe erkundet die Bedeutungen der Affen und andere Tiere aus Sicht verschiedener Disziplinen: Primatologie, Vergleichende Psychologie, Kognitionsforschung, Evolutionäre Biologie, Anthropologie, Literatur, Ästhetik und Philosophie.

Location: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Auditorium maximum, Raum 110

Programme:

- 27.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Markus Wild, Philosophisches Seminar, Universität Basel**
Minds of Animals: Reflections on the Human - non-Human Continuum
Podiumsdiskussion auf Englisch im Vortragssaal des Naturhistorischen Museums
- 28.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Frans de Waal, Developmental and Cognitive Neuroscience, Emory University**
Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are? *Referat auf Englisch*
- 05.10.2016 **Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter, Englische Sprachen und Literaturen, Universität Bern**
Rotpeters Evolution: Affen in der Literatur
- 12.10.2016 **Prof. Dr. Michael Taborsky, Institut für Ökologie und Evolution, Universität Bern**
Das Tier-Mensch Kontinuum am Beispiel komplexen Sozialverhaltens

- 19.10.2016 **Prof. Dr. Nina Buchmann, World Food System Center, ETH Zürich**
Das Welternährungssystem: Lebensmittel für die Schweiz aus aller Welt
- 06.04.2016 **Prof. Dr. Markus Wild, Philosophisches Seminar, Universität Basel**
Grundrechte für Primaten. Inhalt, Geschichte und Zukunft einer Idee
- 26.10.2016 **Prof. Dr. Alicia Melis, Behavioural Science, University of Warwick, Coventry**
The Evolutionary Roots of Human Cooperation. *Referat auf Englisch*
- 02.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Winfried Menninghaus, Max-Planck-Institut für empirische Ästhetik, Frankfurt**
Die verrückte Schönheit des "nackten Affen" und die Entstehung der visuellen Künste
- 09.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Klaus Zuberbühler, Institut de Biologie, Universität Neuchâtel**
Die Sprache der Affen
- 16.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Daniel Haun, Institut für Bildungswissenschaften, Universität Leipzig**
Primatenkultur? Kulturelle Unterschiede im Sozialverhalten von Schimpansen
- 23.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Julia Fischer, Leibniz-Institut für Primatenforschung, Göttingen**
Der feine Unterschied - Was macht den Menschen aus? Zur Evolution von Sozialverhalten und Intelligenz bei Primaten
- 30.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Hanno Würbel, Abteilung Tierschutz, Universität Bern**
Von Mäusen und Menschen: Tierschutz und Ethik im Tierversuch
- 07.11.2016 **Prof. Dr. Walter Bauer-Wabnegg, Präsident, Universität Erfurt, Fakultät Kunst und Gestaltung, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar**
Wer hat die Kokosnuss geklaut? Geschichten vom Planet der Affen
- 14.12.2016 **Prof. Dr. Raymond Corbey, Archäologische Fakultät, Universität Leiden**
The Metaphysics of Apes: Changing Views of Human Uniqueness. *Referat auf Englisch*

Evaluation (pass/fail): Der Besuch der Vorlesungsreihe wird Studierenden, deren Studienplan dies zulässt, nach bestandenem Leistungsnachweis mit 3 Kreditpunkten als freie Leistung angerechnet. Please contact your study counsellor for further information.

Bachelor Colloquia

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium

Title: Linguistics

Instructor: D. Britain

Time: Monday 16-18

Sessions: 19 September,
21 November,
5 December,
12 December

Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: The BA Colloquium will give students who are either planning to write or are already in the process of writing their BA theses the chance to discuss the conception of a BA thesis topic, to learn about appropriate ways to structure a written thesis and to present their own research and get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students who are writing their thesis this semester will present their BA research to the rest of the group during one of the sessions of the colloquium. The award of ECTS points for the Colloquium is linked to the presentation at this conference, as well as participation through the semester.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Forum conference towards end of semester.

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium

Title: North American Literature

Instructors: T. Claviez / G. Rippl

Time: Thursday 10-12

Sessions: 22 Sept. / 6 Oct. / 20 Oct. / 3 Nov. / 17 Nov. / 8 Dec.

Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: The Research Colloquium will give students who are either planning to write or are already in the process of writing their BA theses the chance to present their work and to get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers. In addition, key theoretical and methodological approaches will be discussed where they prove relevant for students' work. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor of the sections they are writing their thesis in.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium

Title: Medieval and Modern English Literature

Instructors: A. Kern-Stähler / V. Richter

Time: Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)

First Session/Sessions: 29 September 2016

Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course Description: The Research Colloquium will give students who are in the process of writing their BA thesis the chance to present their work and to get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers. In addition, key theoretical and methodological approaches will be discussed where they prove relevant for students' work. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor they are writing their thesis with.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

MASTER STUDIES

Specialisation Linguistics

Course Type:	Foundation Lecture
Title:	Foundations of Sociolinguistics
Instructor:	D. Britain
Time:	Tuesday 14-16
First Session:	20 September
Credit Points:	4 ECTS (ungraded 3 ECTS)

Course Description: This course examines the underlying foundations of and recent developments in sociolinguistic approaches to the study of language. The aim is to provide a detailed examination of some sociolinguistic debates at a number of levels. We first consider how sociolinguistics differentiates itself from practices in asocial approaches to linguistics before looking at debates that rage both within sociolinguistics as a whole and, later, within individual sub-branches of the discipline. The course considers topics such as: competence and performance; the role of intuition in the study of language; the role of variability, change and diachrony; description, prescription and, verbal hygiene'; social identity; language ideologies; authenticity; and indexicality.

It aims, then, to examine some of the foundational building blocks of sociolinguistics – why it emerged when it did, how and why it differentiates itself from other forms of linguistics, and some of the fundamental debates that are going on within sociolinguistics. It is, therefore, largely (meta)theoretical. By the end of the course, students should know why sociolinguists do what they do, and the sorts of themes that sociolinguists are still grappling with, fifty years after the foundations of the discipline.

Texts: Readings will be placed on ILIAS for each session.

Aims: Students successfully completing this course will understand some of the fundamental theoretical assumptions and ongoing debates in sociolinguistics.

Evaluation: A 90-minute exam on 13 December for 4 ECTS (graded), a 90-minute exam (with fewer questions) on 13 December for 3 ECTS (pass or fail).

Resit date: 13 January 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 13 December 2016

Course Type: MA Lecture

Title: Multilingualism

Instructor: S. Fox

Time: Wednesday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The course will introduce students to various aspects of multilingualism from a sociolinguistic perspective. We will examine different kinds of multilingualism both at the individual and societal level. The course will introduce concepts such as bilingualism, acquiring and maintaining a bilingual repertoire and codeswitching in conversation among individual speakers. At the societal level, the course will consider different patterns of societal multilingualism including diglossia and old and new linguistic minorities. We will also explore how in many multilingual contexts the co-existence with a majority language leads to the endangerment of minority languages, and how phenomena such as language shift, death and loss can be counteracted by means of language policy and planning as well as multilingual education. In the final part of the course we will look at the topics of globalisation, language spread and new multilingualisms and the study of the Linguistic Landscape as an approach to multilingualism.

Texts: Readings will be placed on ILIAS for each session.

Aims: The learning goals for this Focus Module Lecture course are:

- to have acquired an understanding of some of the key concepts and theories in the field of individual and societal multilingualism,
- to be aware of some of the principal methodologies used in the study of multilingualism,
- to be able to apply some of the issues of multilingualism to your own experiences as language learners/users.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Your engagement and learning in this Focus Module Lecture will be assessed by ONE examination on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

Grade Requirement: Lecture test. The grade for the whole focus module (lecture + one seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Re-sit date: 21 December 2016

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 7 December 2016

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Sociolinguistic London: Excursion Trip
Instructor:	S. Fox
Time:	Wednesday 8-10
Sessions:	21 Sep / 28 Sep / 19 Oct / 16 Nov
Field trip:	1-4 November
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Costs: Costs for this excursion seminar are estimated at CHF 250-300 per person; this includes a 50% subsidy from the Dekanat. You should be prepared to arrive in London by 13:00 on Tuesday 1 November and return late afternoon/evening on Friday 4 November.

Course Description: Language attitudes and language ideologies are an everyday part of our lives. Based on the way we speak, we are often judged by others about our intelligence, our friendliness, the social class we are likely to belong to as well as other social groupings of which we might be members. Our use of language can evoke strong reactions and in turn those reactions can have strong implications for social advantage as well as social discrimination. In recent years research on London has shown that a spoken variety, *Multicultural London English* (MLE), has emerged, referring to new forms of language and new ways of speaking predominantly among young people of both immigrant and non-immigrant backgrounds. Media coverage of this variety of speech has tended to be somewhat negative, suggesting that many young speakers in London use 'Jafaican', to mean a fake Jamaican accent, and that some young people are unable to shift from an MLE-type of speech to a more standard variety in situations where this might be required. To date, however, we have no empirical evidence from the speakers themselves or those in the community about their attitudes towards this variety or the way in which their use of language forms part of their social identity. The aim of this excursion trip, then, is to undertake an exploratory study of attitudes towards MLE among Londoners, and the potential implications of these attitudes. Students who embark on this trip will collect data by means of a questionnaire and by conducting/recording an interview with an appropriate participant. The data will be used as part of a larger study on language attitudes in London.

Texts: Will be provided on ILIAS.

Aims: The seminar is organized within the broad framework of research on language attitudes and will feed into a spring 2017 MA seminar on language attitudes. The learning goals of this seminar are:

- to have a broad introduction to approaches to language attitudes research,
- to be able to situate this work on London English within the broader framework of language attitudes research,
- to have 'hands-on' experience of collecting language attitudes data.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Attendance at all sessions, collection of fieldwork data.

Grade Requirement: If you are taking this seminar for 7 ECTS you will be required to reflect upon your experience of collecting the data in London, drawing on what you have read and on your first-hand encounters with speakers and the discussion with your chosen recorded participant.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 16 December 2016

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	The Past in Spoken Englishes
Instructor:	D. Britain
Time:	Tuesday 10-12
First Session:	20 September 2016, Final session on 20 December will be from 8h-14h, depending on numbers of students taking the course graded.
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This course looks at the manifestation of the past tense in different varieties of English. Doing so will enable us to look at grammatical variation in spoken English, examine how expressing the past has changed and is changing through time, and, through an empirical investigation of some spoken language data, to explore some of the analytical challenges of studying tense in English. We will consider both so-called 'inner-circle' and 'outer circle', 'new' 'world' Englishes in the course. We will look, for example, at the following:

- the conversational historic present tense,
- the non-standard past tense of BE, COME and other verbs,
- the expression of habitual past: preterite, used to, or would,
- tense marking through adverbials,
- evolution in the past marking of 'strong' versus 'weak' verbs.

We will see, for example, how the analysis of the past tense reveals a series of underlying grammatical and other factors shaping variation, and also throws up a number of difficulties: for example, how to analyse past tense in varieties with high levels of –t/d deletion in which the morphological marker of tense is absent.

Texts: Relevant materials will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to the variable and changing system of past tense marking in spoken English, both theoretically, as well as methodologically and analytically.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Graded: Attendance, presentation, end of semester conference paper based on data analysis from a corpus, written project report; Ungraded: Attendance, presentation, and small data analysis project.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 13 February 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Hands-On Phonetics and Phonology
Instructor:	A. Leemann
Time:	Monday 10-12
First Session:	19 September 2016
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This course is an introduction to experimental phonetics and phonology, the linguistic subfield concerned with describing, analyzing, and explaining how sounds are produced, heard, and mentally organized. In terms of phonetics, we will address the following questions: How are speech sounds produced? How does sound travel through the air? How are sounds registered by the ears? How can we measure speech? The phonology sessions will address questions such as: How do languages organize sounds to distinguish different words? What sorts of constraints do languages put on sequences of sound? The format will be very hands-on, with extensive exposure to primary data (e.g. English Dialect App corpus consisting of data from >2000 UK speakers) and signal analysis. Students will work on speech production and perception experiments using computer software (Praat and R). Fundamentals to both programs will be introduced in class, no prerequisites necessary.

Texts: Relevant texts will be placed on ILIAS. Students can get an idea of the topics to be covered by gleaning into Reetz, H. & Jongman, A. (2011). *Phonetics: Transcription, production, acoustics, and perception* (Vol. 34). John Wiley & Sons; Ashby, M. & Maidment, J. (2005). *Introducing phonetic science*. Cambridge University Press.

Aims: By the end of the course, students will (a) understand the basic anatomy of the human vocal tract, (b) be able to describe speech sounds in terms of place and manner of articulation, (c) be familiar with the range of human phonetic capabilities and phonological contrasts common in the languages of the world, (d) be proficient with a number of tools for data analysis (IPA transcription, Praat, and R), and (e) be familiar with the most common experimental designs for speech production and perception experiments.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Presentation of experiments, attendance, and active participation.

Grade Requirement: Presentation of experiments, attendance, active participation, and written report on the experiments.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 January 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar (CSLS)
Title:	Late Modern Sociolinguistics
Instructor:	U. Ritzau
Time:	Friday 8-10
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The increasing global mobility and following linguistic and ethnic diversity, especially in larger cities, have lead sociolinguists to focus on how language is used by speakers who have access to several different languages or varieties (or what might be seen as different varieties). Late modern sociolinguistics centres on oral and written language use, particularly in European contexts where people of different linguistic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds live side by side.

In this course, we will look into some of the concepts that have gained ground within sociolinguistic research during the last couple of decades, e.g. superdiversity, indexicality and translanguaging. We will start the course with an (partly historical) overview of different orientations to linguistic diversity as well as introductions to the concepts of superdiversity and language ideologies in order to understand the foundations and development of late modern sociolinguistics. Subsequently, we will investigate theoretical concepts central to late modern sociolinguistics, such as linguistic repertoire, crossing and enregisterment. At the end of the semester, we will take a closer look at the variety of concepts currently used to describe different aspects of hybrid language use, e.g. polylinguaging, translanguaging, metrolingualism or modern urban vernaculars.

Texts: Relevant materials will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to the field of late modern sociolinguistics, in particular fundamental and currently developing theoretical concepts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Attendance, presentation, and small data analysis project

Grade Requirement: Attendance, presentation, end of semester conference paper based on data analysis from a corpus, written project report

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: tba

Course Type:	MA Seminar (CSLS)
Title:	Language and Modernity in the Pacific
Instructor:	M. Paviour-Smith
Time:	Friday 12-14
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This course presents an overview of the language situations in the three major areas of the Oceanic Pacific —Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. The students will examine features of these languages as well as the creoles, Tok Pisin, Bislama and Hiri Motu which emerged as a result of contact and economic changes in the region. The students will further explore socio-linguistic issues of language policy and planning in multilingual and bilingual contexts as well as more discourse oriented questions regarding attitudes to self and others in post-colonial settings and the presentation of identity in post-contact Pasifika societies. Students will look, for example, at the deployment of specific varieties of English or specific linguistic features to index different kinds of island identities without the means of an ancestral language.

Texts: Relevant materials will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to the languages and cultures of the Pacific and examine the impact of modernity and the ways and means of communication in Pacific communities and in their diasporas.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Attendance, presentation, and small data analysis project

Grade Requirement: Attendance, presentation, end of semester conference paper, written project report

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: tba

Specialisation Literature

Course Type:	Foundation Lecture
Title:	Literary Theory
Instructor:	T. Claviez
Time:	Tuesday 10-12
Credit Points:	4 ECTS (ungraded 3 ECTS)

Content: The lecture will cover the main schools, approaches, directions and tendencies in Literary Theory since the Linguistic Turn, initiated by the work of Ferdinand de Saussure. This includes Structural Textual Semantics, Structuralism (Lévi-Strauss, Barthes, Althusser), Formalism (Sklovskij), Reception Aesthetics (Iser), Critical Theory (Adorno, Horkheimer), Poststructuralism (Foucault, Derrida) and Postcolonialism (Said, Spivak, Bhabha).

Texts: The main theoretical texts, as well as the primary texts used to exemplify these theories, will be provided in a reader.

Aims: The aim of the lecture is to familiarise students with the main schools of Literary Theory in the 20th century, to show the interconnections between and the developments from one to the other, as well as to enable students to use them strategically in their studies.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work; written minutes of 2 lectures

Grade Requirement: Written minutes of 2 lectures; final written exam

Resit date: 13 January 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 20 December 2016

Course Type:	MA Lecture
Title:	Word-Image Configurations – Modes of Production and Reception
Instructor:	G. Rippl / P. J. Schneemann
Time:	Tuesday 14-16
First Session:	27 September 2016
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: This interdisciplinary lecture course will be jointly given by G. Rippl, Professor of Literatures in English, and P. J. Schneemann, an art historian and Professor of Contemporary Art at our university. In this lecture we will explore the field of intermediality studies, giving particular attention to the manifold word-image configurations in twentieth- and twenty-first century Anglophone literature and the arts. Our discussions will focus on the different modes of production and reception of word-image configurations.

In contemporary Anglophone literature, many literary texts include pictures or refer to a variety of images in many different ways. In visual art, the status of the text has changed as well. Artists understand the text not only as a tool to articulate their intentions, and they do not use it as a mere source; instead, they treat it as an autonomous medium, intertextually reflecting upon a variety of text genres. In terms of perception, ekphrasis allows for new approaches to the anachronistic fragmentation in art perception and addresses the shifts between the presence of the work and its imagination, the anticipation of the aesthetic gaze and its memory. Contemporary ekphrasis functions as a narrative of the existence of a work and as fiction about its social relevance. The public takes an active part in the production of these stories.

We will begin by investigating theoretical, systematic and methodological questions and then move on to aspects of production as well as aspects of reception. We will also explore narration/description (ekphrasis), genre (documentary genres, autobiography, diary, travel accounts, letters, interviews, etc.), participatory modes of production/reception, and settings/places.

Texts: In addition to visual works of art, a selection of primary and secondary texts will be discussed during the lecture. Students from the Department of English are advised to read during term break: Teju Cole: *Every Day Is for the Thief* (2007/2014), Donna Tartt: *The Goldfinch* (2013) and Siri Hustvedt: *The Blazing World* (2014). Please check the Ilias platform for additional reading material at the beginning of September 2016.

Aims: This lecture will introduce students to (a) the rich fields of intermediality and ekphrasis theory as well as to (b) the exciting field of contemporary word-image constellations in literary and artistic cultural products/works of art. Furthermore, it will teach them to analyze critically contemporary Anglophone literary texts as well as contemporary works of art and to work in an interdisciplinary way (literary and cultural studies/art history). Methodological questions will be raised in addition to theoretical and systematic ones, helping students to develop their visual literacy and interdisciplinary competences.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students get 3 ECTS points for a) regularly attending the lecture and b) for passing a written test on Tuesday, 6 December 2016, 14:15–15:45. Please note that the re-sit will take place on Tuesday, 20 December 2014, 14:15–15:45.

Grade Requirement: Final written exam. The grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture and seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Resit date: Tuesday, 20 December 2014, 14:15–15:45

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 6 December 2016

Course Type:	MA Lecture
Title:	Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture
Instructor:	N. Nyffenegger
Time:	Wednesday 10-12
First session:	28 September (second week)
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: Bloodthirsty warriors, crusading knights, murderous conspirators, the public torture of martyrs, the agony of Christ on the cross, infanticide, suicide, regicide, war, murder, and rape . . . Representations of violence abound in medieval literature and a widely shared “shaggy medievalism” (Umberto Eco) interprets them as witnesses of a distant and dark age. While the self-proclaimed rebirth of a golden age in the Renaissance arguably did bring about many cultural changes, literary representations of violence clearly show more continuities than breaks. Consequently, we will bridge the medieval/early modern divide in this lecture while also framing our discussions as a “distant mirror” (Barbara Tuchman) of our own attitudes about and engagement with violence. This lecture introduces students to representations of violence across a wide range of genres and periods (covering roughly the 10th-17th centuries). The topic will be approached thematically rather than chronologically and the examples from medieval and early modern literature and art will be embedded in relevant theoretical approaches to questions of power, identity, religion, ethics, gender, and the animal-human relationship.

Texts: Students will be asked to read short primary and secondary or theoretical texts from week to week. These will be announced in the session and uploaded on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to representations of violence in medieval and early modern literature and culture and to discuss relevant theoretical approaches to the topic.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, thorough preparation of set texts, quiz in session of 7 December 2016

Grade Requirement: The grade for the Focus Module is acquired in the respective seminar. Please note that the lecture quiz needs to be passed in order to get the mark for the whole FM. MA minor students and exchange students who need a mark are asked to notify me in the first week of term.

Resit date: 21 December 2016

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 7 December 2016

Course Type: Lecture / Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Liturgie – Ritus, Raum und Ausstattung,
Liturgy – Rite, Space and Objects

Instructor: Medievalists of University of Bern and guest speakers

Time: Thursday 17-19

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

BMZ: Das Berner Mittelalter Zentrum (BMZ) hat als interdisziplinäres und Synergien stiftendes Forum an der Universität Bern die Aufgabe, Forschung und Lehre sowie Öffentlichkeitsarbeit auf dem Gesamtgebiet der mittelalterlichen Geschichte und Kultur zu fördern und zu koordinieren. Dies geschieht durch gemeinsame Lehrveranstaltungen, Forschungsprojekte, Publikationen, Sprachkurse, Tagungen und Exkursionen sowie durch Gastvorträge von in- und ausländischen Gelehrten.

Course Description: In Liturgien hat der Gottesdienst Form gefunden, liturgische Handlungen bieten Gläubigen und Gemeinschaften einen festgefügtten Rahmen für ihren Gottesdienst. Die Räume, in denen sie gefeiert werden, wurden für diese Handlungen konzipiert und errichtet; sie spiegeln – auch wenn zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt etwa Liturgiereformen nach Anpassung einer Raumkonfiguration verlangten – die Riten, die in ihnen vollzogen wurden. Kirchenbauten des Mittelalters sind in vielen Städten bis heute Identifikationsorte für deren Bürger und zugleich weithin wirksame architektonische Landmarken. Ihre Ausstattung, wie auch die von Synagogen, war nicht selten eine gemeinschaftliche Aufgabe oder bot Einzelnen Gelegenheit, mit Schenkungen und Stiftungen zur Ausgestaltung des liturgischen Raumes beizutragen, oder Schriften und Objekten, die zur Liturgie gehörten, eine würdige, gelegentlich sogar prunkvolle Fassung zu geben. In nicht wenigen Sprachen sind liturgische Texte des Mittelalters zu einem integralen Bestandteil des literarischen Erbes geworden; sie werden in nicht-liturgischen Kontexten zitiert oder fungieren als Referenzsystem, auf das sich nicht allein Dichtungen beziehen. Auch Musik gehört zur Ausgestaltung von Liturgien: Vokal- und zunehmend auch Instrumentalmusik haben seit dem Mittelalter liturgische Handlungen begleitet und akzentuiert; der Gebrauch bestimmter Instrumente wie die Entwicklung spezifischer Kompositionsformen gehören in diesen Kontext.

Die BMZ-Vorlesung des Herbstsemesters wird Liturgien des Judentums und der christlichen Kirchen des Mittelalters mit ihren historischen Bedingungen thematisieren; dabei sollen auch die Räume, in denen Liturgien gefeiert wurden (und werden), liturgische Texte und Musiken sowie die Objekte, die zu ihrem Vollzug gehörten, in den Blick genommen werden. Immer wieder soll dabei das Zusammenwirken von Ritus, Raum und Ausstattung thematisiert und der performative Charakter von Liturgien erörtert werden.

Ort: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

- **As BA and MA lecture (graded or ungraded):** Regular presence, three follow-up sessions (dates *tba*). Please contact Dr Nicole Nyffenegger (nyffenegger@ens.unibe.ch) in the first week of term for details on these sessions and on the paper that will have to be submitted by the end of the term.
 - **As Wahlbereich lecture (graded):** Under the supervision of BMZ director Prof. Dr. Christian Hesse. Please check: http://www.bmz.unibe.ch/pdf/Anforderungen_Wahlbereich.pdf
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Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Utopia
Instructor:	G. Rippl / B. Mahlmann-Bauer
Time:	Monday 14-16
First Session:	19 September 2016
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This seminar is dedicated to a specific genre of literature, utopia (as well its twin, dystopia). The term 'utopia' designates "the class of fictional writings that represent an ideal, nonexistent political and social way of life" (Abrams). We will look into theories of utopian writing, follow the genre's development from the sixteenth to the twentieth century and discuss the genre's migration across cultural boundaries.

Please note that this interdisciplinary seminar will be co-taught by two professors, one from the Department of English and one from the Department of German Studies. Since some of the primary and secondary sources are in German, students attending this course will need some fluency in reading and understanding German (some of the seminar discussions might take place in German).

Texts: Among the texts/excerpts from texts we will discuss are Thomas Morus: *Utopia* (1516); Johann Valentin Andreae: *Reipublicae Christianopolitanae Descriptio* (1619, German transl. 1741, Johann Valentin Andreae: *Christianopolis – Reise nach der Insel Caphar Salamar...* with an afterword by Heiner Höfener, reprint Hildesheim 1981); Tommaso Campanella: *City of the Sun* (1623); Francis Bacon: *Nova Atlantis – New Atlantis* (1627); John Wilkins: *A Discovery of a World in the Moon* (1638); Eberhard Christian Kindermann: *Die geschwinde Reise auf dem Luft-Schiff nach der obern Welt ...* (1744, German transl. 2010); Edward Bellamy: *Looking Backward* (1888); Theodor Herzl: *Altneuland* (1902); Charlotte Perkins Gilman: *Herland* (1915); Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World* (1932); Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale* (1986).

Shorter texts as well as excerpts from texts will be made available via ILIAS. Students from the Department of English are asked to buy and read Gilman's *Herland*, Huxley's *Brave New World*, as well as Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* during the term break.

Preparatory reading: Fatima Vieira, "The Concept of Utopia", in: Gregory Claeys, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010. 3-27. (see ILIAS platform)

Aims:

- Students develop a solid grasp of the conceptual and theoretical tools necessary to analyse and interpret literary utopias and dystopias.
- Students are able to give persuasive accounts of different facets of utopian literature (from the early modern period to the 21st century) both in writing and in oral form.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation, presentation (4 ECTS)

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, presentation, seminar paper (of 5'000–6'000 words) (7 ECTS)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 15 Jan. 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar (Interdisciplinary Classical History and English Literature)
Title:	Shakespeare's and Plutarch's Romans / Die Konstruktion historischer Persönlichkeiten bei Shakespeare und Plutarch
Instructor:	N. Nyffenegger / C. Körner
Time:	Friday 14-16
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: In this course, we will approach Shakespeare's Roman Plays (*Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Coriolanus*) and Plutarch's *Lives of the Noble Greeks and Romans* from an interdisciplinary angle. Working together with students of classical history, we will read these works alongside each other and supplement our reading by Shakespeare's source, Thomas North's 16th century English translation of Plutarch's *Lives* and by historical sources that provide the co-texts for Plutarch's work.

We will focus on the comparison, across time and space, of the respective constructions of the "great men" of Rome and will discuss how these constructions relate to the authors and to the audiences of the works. How, in other words, do written representations of historical and legendary persons reflect on the cultures that produce them? In the course of our discussions, we will think about the relations of history and literature ("historicity of literature and literariness of history") and discuss our respective fields' methods and approaches. We hope to underline the great value of interdisciplinary work and to show how engaging with other fields enriches our understanding of our own field and of the past we study.

Texts: Please buy either the individual Arden editions of the three plays or the *Oxford Shakespeare, Complete Works*. For the Greek texts (with translation) we will use the Loeb edition, which is available online:

<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/home.html>

Aims: To approach Shakespeare's plays and Plutarch's *Lives* from an interdisciplinary angle, to reflect on literary and cultural translation, to engage with the different fields' approaches and methods.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of the set texts, regular reading and preparation of additional historical and theoretical texts, one presentation, one paper project presentation.

Grade Requirement: All of the above plus a written paper of ca. 4000-5000 words.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 February 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	The Short Story in American Literary History
Instructor:	T. Claviez
Time:	Thursday 14-16
First Session:	22 September 2016
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The seminar will offer a literary-historical overview of one of the most important genres in the US – the short story – from its beginnings in the 17th century up until the end of the 20th. It is also designed to familiarize the students with the main phases of literary history: Early Republic, Romanticism, Naturalism, Realism, Modernism, Neo-Realism, Postmodernism, and early Cyber Story, and their dynamic intersections and transformations.

Texts: All texts, including both primary and secondary sources, will be collected in a reader to be obtained at the Copy Shop.

Aims: Students will get an overview of the literary-historical evolution of the genre, as well as a detailed introduction into the main characteristics and transformation of single phases that constitute this history.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Presentation in seminar and active participation

Grade Requirement: Presentation in seminar (15-20 min., 35 %), written MA paper (60%)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 30 January 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Adapting Cabeza de Vaca's Shipwrecks
Instructor:	N. Gernalzick
Time:	Tuesday 16-18
First Session:	20 September
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca travelled on foot around what is today called the Gulf of Mexico in the early 16th century after the Spanish excursion he took part in shipwrecked. He spent eight years among Native peoples, whose customs and community he came to share. Eventually, he tried to save the Natives he lived with from enslavement by the Spanish. His autobiographical account of the years he lived with the Natives before he met again with the Spanish and then returned to service to the King of Spain is a classic early colonial exploration narrative and a rare ethnographic document. Many adaptations of Cabeza de Vaca's relation have been produced, in a variety of media, from prose to film to sculpture. How the markers of reliability of his account as a first-person narrative meandering between cultures are transformed into different media is one interest of this seminar. Other interests are, of course, the close reading of the English translation of the original account, with which we shall start the investigation, and an understanding of the place of the text in transatlantic literary history. Theoretically, the narrative of Cabeza de Vaca is related to colonialism, postcolonialism, and posthumanism.

Texts: Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca*, 1542, ed. and trans. Rolena Adorno and Patrick Charles Pautz (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2003). ISBN 978-0-8032-6416-8. Please read this translation of Cabeza de Vaca's account before the beginning of the seminar. Further readings will be announced on ILIAS.

Aims: In-depth understanding of a 16th-century non-fiction narrative about cultural encounter and of the related critical concepts as well as practice in critically analyzing adaptation across media.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Presentation

Grade Requirement: Presentation, seminar paper

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 January 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Displacement: Narratives of Migration and Exile
Instructor:	V. Richter
Time:	Wednesday 10-12
First Session:	21 September 2016
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Currently, great numbers of refugees from the Near and Middle East and Africa are trying to reach safe havens in Europe. News coverage alternates between sympathetic depictions of their plight and questions about the economic and political impact of this historical process on Western democracies. Despite the theme's topicality, the geographical displacement of individuals and population groups on a large scale is not a recent or unique phenomenon. While wars, poverty and political oppression intensify migration, people have always been on the move. Stephen Greenblatt argues against regarding mobility as a historical anomaly and a disruptive force; rather, he pleads to accept the inherent instability of cultures as a point of departure for cultural analysis.

Literature has always addressed the experience of migration and exile. This seminar will limit its scope to recent publications. Contemporary Anglophone fiction and non-fiction engage with displacement as one of the most important human experiences of our time; to mention but a few: Gulwali Passarlay describes in his autobiographical account *The Lightless Sky* his journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan to Europe; in her widely acclaimed novel *Americanah*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie follows emigrants from Nigeria to the United States; Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn* shows an Irish emigrant's emotional oscillation between her country of origin and her new home, New York. Other publications, including recent French and German novels (David Foenkinos, *Charlotte*; Jenny Erpenbeck, *Gangen, Ging, Gegangen*) look at historical and contemporary examples of flight and refuge. Navid Kermani's report *Einbruch der Wirklichkeit*, following the current refugee trek through Europe, and the newly re-issued autobiographical description of Léon Werth's flight through Nazi-occupied France (in a new German edition, *33 Tage*), focus on the difficulties of the physical journey refugees undertake.

Texts: The following texts have to be read before the beginning of term: Chimanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah*. London: Fourth Estate, 2015; Gulwali Passarlay, *The Lightless Sky. My Journey to Safety as a Child Refugee*. London: Atlantic Books, 2015; Colm Tóibín, *Brooklyn*. London: Penguin, 2010. These paperbacks have been ordered at the BUGENO, main building. Please do not use ebooks.

Aims: To try to understand a complex historical process and a fundamental human experience through the lens of literature.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and active participation in class, as well as a thorough preparation of the set texts for discussion are expected. In addition, one oral presentation, one problem framing session.

Grade Requirement: See pass/fail requirement; in addition, a written paper of 5000-6000 words.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 February 2017

Other Courses

Course Type:	MA Workshop
Title:	Theory and the Medieval Text
Instructor:	A. Kern-Stähler
Time:	Several Wednesday 14-16 sessions, followed by two block sessions in early December, dates to be discussed with participants
First Session:	28 September 2016, 14-16
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: In this workshop, we will apply some of the theoretical approaches and conceptual modes of thought that you discussed in your Literary Theory MA Lecture to medieval texts. We will explore how late twentieth- and early twenty-first century concepts like the Other, intertextuality and intermediality can help us scrutinize medieval literature and how new historicist readings, postcolonial readings and readings informed by psychoanalysis, feminist theory and queer theory re-evaluate our understanding of medieval texts. Although the focus is on contemporary theoretical approaches, we will also consider medieval literary theory and critics.

Texts: These will be uploaded on ILIAS.

Aims: Students will be able to apply some of the theoretical approaches and conceptual modes of thought they studied earlier to medieval literature.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and short oral presentation.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of semester

Course Type:	MA Workshop
Title:	Applied Narratology: Basic Concepts, Current Developments and Analysis of Exemplary Texts
Instructor:	M. King
Time:	Thursday 12-14
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: Currently, Narratology is on the cusp of becoming the super-discipline within literary and cultural studies. Since narration is understood as a 'fundamental form of human cultural activity' (Michael Scheffel), narratology reaches across various fields and disciplines - from classical structuralism to postclassical approaches, from the analysis of fictional texts to 'oral' and film narratology and to the narratology of graphic novels and factual texts. Against this background, in the course we will review basic narratological concepts such as plot, focalization/point of view, time, unreliable narration, metafiction and practice their use by analyzing exemplary literary texts.

Texts: Monika Fludernik: An Introduction to Narratology, Routledge 2009 (please buy this book). Selected articles from The Living Handbook of Narratology <http://www.lhn.uni-hamburg.de/> and from David Herman, Manfred Jahn, Marie-Laure Ryan (eds.): The Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory, Routledge 2007.

As introduction, please read the following articles: Michael Scheffel: Article 'Narratology' <http://www.lhn.uni-hamburg.de/article/narratology>; 2. Roy Sommer: The Merger of Classical and Postclassical Narratologies and the Consolidated Future of Narrative Theory, <https://www.diegesis.uni-wuppertal.de/index.php/diegesis/article/view/96/94>

Aims: To train students to analyse narrative texts by using systematically the concepts and tools of classical structuralist narratology and to familiarize them with the current expansion of narrative theory and practice.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and active participation are expected. In addition, there will be a considerable amount of reading from one session to the next (checked by reading test).

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of semester

Master Forums

Course Type: Master Forum

Title: Linguistics

Instructor: D. Britain

Times: Monday 16-18

Sessions: 19 September,
31 October,
14 November,
19 December

Credit Points: 4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum will give students who are either planning to write or are already in the process of writing their MA theses the chance to discuss the conception of an MA thesis topic, to learn about appropriate ways to structure a written thesis and to present their own research and get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students in first semester of Master Forum: class participation; students not in the first semester of the Forum will be required to give a presentation of their MA research, in whatever stage of development, to the rest of the group.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Presentations will take place throughout the semester.

Course Type:	Master Forum
Title:	North American Literature
Instructors:	T. Claviez / G. Rippl
Time:	Thursday 10-12
First Session/Sessions:	29 Sept. / 13 Oct. / 27 Oct. / 10 Nov. / 24 Nov. / 15 Dec.
Credit Points:	4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum is a continual course over the duration of three semesters. Students can choose in which semester to attend the forum; it is recommended that they take the opportunity to present their MA thesis in their final term. The Forum is a problem-oriented research colloquium in which students will have the chance to talk about their work, discuss theories and methodologies and peer-review their written work and presentation skills. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professors of the sections they are writing their theses in.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type:	Master Forum
Title:	Medieval and Modern English Literature
Instructors:	A. Kern-Stähler / V. Richter
Time:	Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)
First Session/Sessions:	6 October 2016
Credit Points:	4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum is a continual course over the duration of three semesters. Students can choose in which semester to attend the forum; it is recommended that they take the opportunity to present their MA thesis in their final term. The Forum is a problem-oriented research colloquium in which students will have the chance to talk about their work, discuss theories and methodologies and peer-review their written work and presentation skills. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor with whom they are writing their theses.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

PHD

PhD Colloquia

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Modern English Linguistics

Instructor: D. Britain

Time: Tuesday 16-17, Wednesday 10-12

Course Description: This colloquium is for students preparing for and/or writing a PhD thesis. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as important recent theoretical publications. The workshop is also open to advanced MA scholars intending to work on a PhD related to a currently running project. Contact Prof. Britain for further details.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Language and Communication

Instructor: C. Thurlow

Time: Monday 10-12

Course Description: This colloquium is for students working on their doctoral research in Language and Communication. We meet weekly to discuss core theoretical readings and each person's current work-in-progress. From time to time our discussions centre around core methodologies and other foundational academic discourse practices.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Key Issues in American Studies

Instructor: Fasching/Rippl/Stolz

Time: Monday 12-14

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Literature

Instructor: T. Claviez

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Modern English Literature

Instructor: V. Richter

Time: Block seminar

Sessions: By appointment

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Medieval Studies

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

F. Andres Morrissey: Creative writing, performing poetry, dialects in rock vocals, minority languages; Member of NAWA (National Association of Writers in Education) and EFL consultant for Cambridge University Press.

S. Behluli: Anglophone literature from 1900 to the present, the contemporary North American novel, postmodernism and post-postmodernism, intermediality, materiality, aura.

M. Berger: Medieval English literature, medievalism, adaptation, film and representations of the past, cultural memory, national identity constructions, ideology critique.

C. Bollinger: British Romantic poetry, literature and science (esp. in the first half of the 19th century in Great Britain), storyworlds and possible world theory, fictionality, aural media and literature.

D. Britain: Language variation and change, English dialectology (esp. of Southern England, East Anglia and the Anglophone Southern Hemisphere), sociophonology, dialect contact, new dialect formation and second dialect acquisition, language and dialect obsolescence, the emergent dialects of diaspora communities, and the interface between dialectology and human geography; Associate Editor of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

C. Cavedon: Literary theory, American culture/ literature before and after 9/11, melancholia studies, trauma theory, cultural studies, American exceptionalism, American religious fundamentalism.

D. Bürki: Language variation and change, grammaticalisation, corpus linguistics and studies of contact languages, especially English as a lingua franca.

T. Claviez: Literary theory, aesthetics and ethics, 19th and 20th century American literature, American film, ecocriticism, native American literature, American history of ideas, postcolonial theory, representations of cosmopolitanism, hospitality and otherness.

J. Comer: Sociolinguistics of globalisation; global studies; language ideologies; language policy and planning; participatory and community development, discourses of the global periphery and global South; language documentation and revitalisation; intercultural communication; language and sexuality, and language, culture and cognition.

R. Critten: Late Medieval Literature in English and French, translation studies, manuscript studies, history of reading, autobiography.

M. Denger: Contemporary postcolonial literatures, postcolonial theory, ritual, hauntology, concepts of time, concepts of space, concepts of community, concepts of identity (construction), postmodern narrative strategies.

S. Fox: Language variation and change, urban multicultural dialectology and linguistic change, the language of adolescents from a variationist perspective, some areas of second language learning and teaching. Preferred methods: analysis of spoken corpora (pre-existing or self-collected) within the variationist paradigm or analysis of self-collected data (for second language learning and teaching).

N. Gernalzick: autobiography and automediality, transmediality and transculturality, history of cultural theory with special focus on transnational Hegel-reception, media philosophy, documentary film, genre theory, literary economies, planetarity, material and food cultures

K. Gonçalves: Sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, English as a Lingua Franca, the history of English, historical linguistics, language change, language and gender, discourse and identity construction, narrative studies.

H. Hedegard: Forensic phonetics and sociolinguistics, Socio-Phonetics, Second Language Acquisition, World Englishes, Language, mobility and globalisation.

I. Huber: Fantastic literature, literary anthropology, gender studies, postcolonial studies, narratology, literary theory, comparative perspectives.

A. Kern-Stähler: Medieval literature and culture; concepts of space; concepts of authorship; text and image; gender studies; interrelations between science and literature and between bioethics and literature; fundamentalism and literature; Victorian literature; postmodern literature; British-German relations.

R. Kopaitich: Literary theory, analytic/continental philosophy, philosophy of language, contemporary literature, Anglophone and continental (post)modernism, narratology.

Z. Lehmann: literature and theology, Victorian literature, the long nineteenth century and literature and philosophy.

T. Leonhardt: Articulatory, acoustic and auditory phonetics; phonology; language variation and change; second language acquisition

S. Lynch: Socio-pragmatics; politeness; second language acquisition; second language teaching and learning, Global Englishes; lesser known varieties of English, Irish English, language variation and change.

M. Mace-Tessler: Twentieth century literature written in English, comparative literature, narrative structure, film and film adaptations, ethics in literature.

G. Mapes: Media discourse; language ideology; class and elitist discourse; food studies; consumption studies; preferred method: critical discourse analysis of written and/or spoken language.

V. Marchi: Literary theory, contemporary American literature, native American literature, ethics and literature, postmodern fiction and aesthetics.

C. Neuenschwander: Language contact, Pidgins and Creoles, language ideologies, standardisation and prescriptivism, intercultural communication studies, cultural linguistics.

N. Nyffenegger: Medieval and early modern literature and culture; discourses of the human body; constructions and performativity of gender and identity; animals in literature; concepts of authorship. Gender studies, human-animal studies, literary theory.

V. Richter: British literature and culture in the Restoration and the Long Eighteenth Century; Victorianism; modernity; contemporary literature and film; literary and cultural theory; gender studies; postcolonial studies/cosmopolitanism; literature and science, especially Darwinism; literary representations of animals; literature and the environment, in particular the beach as an in-between space.

G. Rippl: Intermediality (text-image relations, ekphrasis in particular), graphic novels, cultural studies, literary theory, interculturality and postcolonialism, cosmopolitanism, transculturalism, history and anthropology of the media, literature and anthropology, early modernity (frühe Neuzeit), 19th and 20th century women writers in English, semiotics, autobiography research, feminist literary theory, transculturalism.

K. Scheuchzer: Medieval and early modern literature, especially Reformation and post-Reformation literature, Protestant martyrology, hagiography, early modern print culture, concepts of author and readership, gender studies.

J. Straub: Victorian literature, literature and photography, literature and philosophy, autobiography, contemporary British and American fiction.

A. Thiel: Sociophonetics, acoustic phonetics, English in the United States, and L2 varieties of English

C. Thurlow: Critical discourse studies, critical intercultural studies, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, meta-language, language ideology, multimodality (e.g. visibility, space/place, material culture), language and globalization, language and new media, youth and adolescent communication, sex/uality, class inequality.

L. Tresch: Language ideologies, language and the media, language variation and change, English dialectology (New Zealand English and 'Estuary English'), dialect contact, new dialect formation and legitimisation, multilingualism, code-switching.

W. Weber: Law and literature, philosophy of law, and literary theory.

Students' Committee

Website: www.facebook.com/Studentscommittee (no Facebook account required)

E-mail: fsanglistik@sub.unibe.ch

The Students' Committee is a group of students within the English Department acting as the students' representatives at a departmental level. We maintain regular contact with the staff and professors, as well as other university departments and the SUB, communicating the voice of the student body to the department.

Among other things, we call General Assemblies once each semester. This is when all the students of English are asked to meet and discuss topics of general concern, and to provide feedback about past activities and other matters.

It is our responsibility to assist you in study matters and, therefore, we organize information meetings about various topics – such as your stay abroad – to give you the opportunity to gather information. Check the notice boards as well as our website for announcements. However, you can always contact us if you need any kind of assistance concerning your English studies.

We meet regularly to keep up to date with what is going on. If you have any suggestions or complaints, talk to one of us or feel free to e-mail us.

Feel free to join the Committee, or if you are interested in finding out what the Students' Committee is all about, contact one of the current members and/or join in at one of our meetings.

Check our Facebook page regularly!

Staff Address List Autumn Semester 2016

Office and telephone numbers are subject to change. Please consult the notice-boards and departmental website regularly.

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TIMETABLE AUTUMN SEMESTER 2016

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08-10		Morrissey: Modern English Grammar I (Language Foundation Module)	Morrissey: Introduction to Linguistics (Core Curriculum Linguistics and History of English Lecture) Fox: Sociolinguistic London (MA Seminar)	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module)	Ritzau: Late Modern Sociolinguistics (MA Seminar)
10-12	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module) Leemann: Hands-on Phonetics and Phonology (MA Seminar) <i>Thurlow: Language and Communication (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module) Critten: Shipmen, Physicians, and Manciples: Reading the Other Canterbury Tales (BA Workshop) Britain: The Past in Spoken Englishes (MA Seminar) Claviez: Literary Theory (MA Foundation Lecture Literature)	Morrissey: Facing the Full English: The challenge for Minority Languages and Language Minorities (FM Communities and Contact Seminar) Nyffenegger: Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture (FM Violence in Literature and MA Lecture) Richter: Displacement: Narratives of Migration and Exile (MA Seminar)	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module) Gernalzick: Pacific Fictions (FM Violence in Literature Seminar) Kern-Stähler/Richter: Bachelor Colloquium Medieval and Modern English Literature Claviez/Rippl: Bachelor Colloquium North American Literature Kern-Stähler/Richter: MA Forum Medieval and Modern English Literature Rippl/Claviez: MA Forum North American Literature	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module)
12-14	Straub: Introduction to Literature (Core Curriculum Lecture) Mace-Tessler: Speechifying (BA Workshop)	Critten: Earlier Englishes (Core Curriculum Linguistics and History of English Seminar) Fox: Multieholects (FM Communities and Contact Seminar)	Fox: Multilingualism (FM Communities and Contact Lecture and MA Lecture)	Marchi: The Art of Metamorphosis (FM Intermediality Seminar) Morrissey: Creative Writing (BA Workshop) King: Applied Narratology: Basic Concepts, Current Developments and Analysis of Exemplary Texts (MA Workshop)	Paviour-Smith: Language and Modernity in the Pacific (MA Seminar)
14-16	Bollinger: Introduction to Literature (Core Curriculum Seminar) Rippl/Mahlmann-Bauer: Utopia (MA Seminar) <i>Claviez: Literature (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Mace-Tessler: Introduction to Literature (Core Curriculum Seminar) Comer: Global Discourse Methods (FM Communities and Contact Seminar) Rippl/Schneemann: Word-Image Configurations – Modes of Production and Reception (FM Intermediality and MA Lecture) Britain: Foundation of Sociolinguistics (MA Foundation Lecture Linguistics)	Gernalzick: Introduction to Literature (Core Curriculum Seminar) Nyffenegger: The Spectacle of Violence (FM Violence in Literature Seminar) Kern-Stähler: Theory and the Medieval Text (MA Workshop)	Bilkic : Language and Prejudice (FM Communities and Contact Seminar) Kern-Stähler/Scheuchzer/Berger: Word and Image in Medieval and Reformation England (FM Intermediality Seminar) Claviez: American Short Story (MA Seminar) <i>Fasching/Rippl/Stolz: Key Issues in American Studies (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Scheuchzer: Introduction to Literature (Core Curriculum Seminar) Lehmann: Interplanetary Violence: Science Fiction and Civilisation (FM Violence in Literature Seminar) Nyffenegger/Körner: Plutarch's and Shakespeare's Romans (MA Seminar)
16-18	Straub: Literature and Digital Media (FM Intermediality Seminar) Britain: Bachelor Colloquium Linguistics Britain: Master Forum Linguistics	Britain: Language Variation (PhD and Research Colloquium) Gernalzick: Adapting Cabeza de Vaca's Shipwrecks (MA Seminar)	Writing Skills I (Language Foundation Module) Kern-Stähler: Medieval Studies (PhD and Research Colloquium)	17-19: BMZ: Liturgie - Ritus, Raum und Ausstattung/Liturgie - Rite, Space and Objects (BA Wahlbereich Lecture and MA Lecture) Morrissey: Text in Performance (BA Workshop)	
18-20			Collegium Generale: <i>tba</i> (BA Wahlbereich Lecture)		

Key:

Classes in **Bold** are for Master Students

Classes in *Italics* are for Doctoral Students

Core Curricula:

Literature & **Linguistics and History of English**

Language Foundation Modules:

Writing Skills & Modern English Grammar

Focus Modules:

Linguistics FM: Communities and Contact

Literature FM: Intermediality

Literature FM: Violence in Literature

Block Workshops, Seminars and Study Trips (see Course Booklet for more Information):

Richter: Modern English Literature (PhD and Research Colloquium): By Appointment